

AN ENGLISH FAMILY IN INDIA

The Descendants of Captain Solomon Earle
A Family with Links to India Over Nearly 200 Years

Revised April 2024



RICHARD EARLE DESMIER

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Richard Earle Desmier

2nd Edition 2024



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This book was produced by me using the open source photo-editing and word-processing software (Gimp and LibreOffice). Descendant tree charts were produced using the Brothers Keeper genealogy database program.

This is an expanded and updated version of the original publication dated 2019 and contains additional material.

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Preface

Captain Solomon Earle, the focal person for this book, was my 3x great grandfather. My father was Terence Earle Desmier and his mother was Edith Anne Earle who are both mentioned in chapter 8. I was born and educated in England and after university and marriage travelled to Australia overland. We have lived and worked in the states of Western Australia, Victoria and South Australia and have now retired to Queensland.

I have been interested in my family origins for as long as I can remember. Having an uncommon surname and an unusual middle name, Earle, no doubt aroused my curiosity. I knew my father was born in India and that he travelled alone to England when he was 17 years old. Although he told me things about his parents, he could not tell me much about their ancestors other than that there was a Captain Solomon Earle who was in the army and there was a Captain Desmier who sailed a ship. He was able to tell me lots of exciting and interesting tales about his life growing up in India, but not much more about his ancestors.

I first started investigating the family genealogy in 1976 when I saw a book in the Adelaide University Library that documented the ancestry of some noble French families. Imagine my surprise when I found lots of pages dealing with the Desmier name. After several months of work I translated it all. It was only when I got to the last page or two that I realised that the genealogy had been compiled because a girl, Eleonore Desmier, had married a German Duke and their daughter, Sophie Dorothee, married the Elector of Hanover who subsequently became King George I of England. She was the mother of both George II of England and Sophie Queen Consort of Prussia. I still have not tied my family into those of Eleonore, even though they came from the same part of France.

I found it hard to find much information from Australia in the days before the internet. I searched all the phone books in England and in Australia and wrote to most of the people with the Desmier name, probably about 20 in total. Most replied. Some were unable to tell me much as they had married into the family and their husbands had died. Others were able to provide a lot of information on their side of the Desmier family. All the families had ancestry in India. Their information, together with my own research, allowed me to connect most of the family groups with mine. I also started to look into the ancestry of my grandmother's Earle ancestors. Both the Desmier and Earle families spent nearly 200 years in India.

I published newsletters to share my discoveries about both the Desmier and Earle families with others. When use of the internet became more common I set up a website and put what I knew of the family trees online. As I got more information I added it to the website. There was little or no editing of the content and the layout was largely unplanned. I am also concerned about the permanency of the website, in 2024 the website host Ancestry has said that it all logins are to be disabled and so it is no longer possible to modify or add content.

I have prepared this book and its companion volume about the descendants of John Phillippe Desmier so that others who are also interested in these families can download and print a readable, indexed document to keep in their family for future generations.

Of course no family history is ever finished. I hope that in the future others will choose to update and extend my work and also make it easily available to others.

This is a revised and expanded edition of the original ebook published in 2019. In addition to many expanded charts, there is considerably more information on the Lempriere, Meiselbach, Tytler, Poulson, Gee and Dunn families.

Rick Desmier April 2024

The Descendants of Captain Solomon Earle

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Introduction

This book is one of two about the families of my paternal grandparents who lived on the Indian sub-continent. It describes the lives of the descendants of Captain Solomon Earle whose family came from Devon, England. In the text I always prefix his name with 'Captain' to avoid confusion with other Solomon Earles in the family.

The first chapter gives a brief history of the Honourable East India Company (HEIC or EIC) and its place in India. This is followed by some details about the origin of the family name and what I know about them before Solomon went out to India. I have made separate chapters for Captain Solomon Earle and his wife and for each of his children. Information on spouses families and subsequent generations are included under subheadings in the relevant chapter. I have included descendant charts frequently to show how the families are connected. Photographs of people, locations and interesting documents are included throughout. Some maps that show places relevant to the families are located before the first chapter.

In the text I refer to some articles that are too big to include in the main body of the book but are worth reading. These can be downloaded, either from my website ([Desmier, 2019](#)); from the reference cited; or sometimes from a hyperlink (coloured blue, ebook only). These are all contained in the Reference section. I have not given a distinct reference for each birth marriage or death record. The vast majority of these are from extracts held at the British Library that were sent back to England by the churches (Ecclesiastical Returns). These are now available online from FindMyPast (subscription database) or freely as a transcription from FamilySearch. If I have used a transcription and not the original return I have made a note of that fact. Those obtained from other sources are individually referenced. Unless otherwise noted, newspaper extracts have all been downloaded from the British Newspaper Archive (through FindMyPast or State Library of Queensland). Where an internet URL is given that is no longer valid the reference may be found by searching for it in the Internet Archive ([archive.org](#)).

In most instances I have not included the details of families more than one generation detached from the Earle family line. I have also, for privacy reasons, not included details of people born less than about 100 years ago. You might want to consider adding a section about your own family when you print it out and bind it to fill in this gap for your own family.

In this revised edition I have expanded many of the charts to include an additional generation. I have also included additional photographs and information concerning the Tytler, Lempriere and Meiselbach families that are linked with some Earle lines.

Chapter thirteen follows the ancestry of the wife of Edward William Earle back several generations. I have expanded the previous information on the Poulson family and introduced new details about the Gee and Dunn families. This will be of particular interest to Edward's descendants.

In Chapter fourteen I have shown how DNA analyses have helped to support and identify otherwise unknown (to me) family lines.

Acknowledgements

Many people have contributed to the production of this book and to the material on my website. I have tried to list them here but I am sure that I will miss some out. Please accept my apologies if that is the case.

Bob Adams. A descendant of Mary Amanda Earle. He was able to supply me with information and photographs and also reviewed a draft of my first edition.

Sheila Charneski. A descendant of Harriet Tytler née Earle. She sent me photos and information on the Lempriere family and Harriet's children that have been included in the second edition.

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Jenny Wattel-Herd. A descendant of Eugene James Earle. She gave me family notes drafted by Margarete Earle on some of the children of Edward William Earle.

List of Abbreviations

Abbreviations used in lists of Officers services and in the main text

Actg.	Acting
Adjt.	Adjutant
AJ.	Asiatic Journal
Ancestry	Ancestry subscription genealogy database
b.	Born
Bde.	Brigade
Bn.	Battalion
Bt.	Brevet
C.C.	Cadet College
Capt.	Captain
Comd.	Command
Coy.	Company
d.d.	Doing duty
do.	Ditto
E.I.C.	East India Company
E.I.M.C.	East India Military Calendar
Ens.	Ensign
FamilySearch	Database operated by the Church of latter Day Saints (Mormons)
FMP	Find My Past subscription genealogy database
Fur.	Furlough
G.M.	Gentleman's Magazine
H.E.I.C.	Honourable East India Company
I.M.	Allen's Indian Mail
I.W.	Isle of Wight
Lieut.	Lieutenant
Lt. Col	Lieutenant Colonel
mos.	Months
N.I.	Native Infantry
Paymr.	Paymaster
q.v.	Which follows
Refs.	References
Resdt.	Resident
s.w.	Severely wounded
u.p.a.	Urgent private affairs
Vols.	Volunteers



Note: The spelling of place names varies and some have been changed following Independence. Some of the changes are:

Calcutta now Kolkata

Bombay now Mumbai

Poona now Pune

Pondicherry now Puducherry

Madras now Chennai

Cochin now Kochi

Calicut now Kozikhode

Baroda now Vadodara

Cawnpore now Kanpur

Allahabad now Prayagraj

Chapter 1

INDIA AND THE BRITISH EAST INDIA COMPANY

In this chapter I have tried to briefly describe the context in which Captain Solomon Earle, several of his children and their co-relatives chose to travel to and make their lives in India. I have tried to briefly explain why the East India Company (EIC) was established; why it needed a private army; how it developed; why it was dissolved and how it was succeeded. A more comprehensive examination of the social and political environment in which Captain Solomon Earle lived and worked has been written by descendant Bob Adams (Adams, 2019). In addition there are many readily available documents and books that deal with the history of India and the EIC in more detail and more accurately than I am capable of or have attempted to achieve here.

Spices have been traded between the Indian Subcontinent and the middle east since before christian times. Turks, and Persians had travelled overland into north west India. Arab ships had traded between the east coast of India and the Persian Gulf. People of various nationalities and religions had set themselves up as local merchants and exporters and had been largely tolerated by the indigenous races. Camel caravans would complete the trip across land to Mediterranean ports for onward distribution throughout the Grecian, and later the Roman Empire's lands. Egyptian ships could sail up the Red Sea.

Europeans were keen to bypass middle eastern traders and increase supply as well as make more profits. In 1492 Christopher Columbus, an Italian with Spanish backing set off to find a sea route from Europe to India but he found the Americas instead. In 1498 Vasco de Gama, from Portugal was the first European to successfully travel directly by sea around Africa to India. He was granted trading rights from a local ruler near Calicut. Over the next 100 years the Portuguese established several settlements in Southern India to supply their ships with goods such as spices, silks, and textiles. Portuguese men based in India were encouraged to marry Indian women and convert them to Christianity. In addition orphan girls from Portugal were shipped out to India to provide wives. Goa, on the West Coast, became the capital of Portuguese India and remained a State of Portugal until 1961.

Other European nations followed the Portuguese to India to get their share of the trade. A Dutch East India Company was formed in 1595 and built settlements in Indonesia as well as India. In Britain the East India Company was established in 1600 and other countries also followed suit: Denmark in 1620 and France in 1668. As well as these the Swedish, Norwegians and Austrians each established a trading presence on the Subcontinent. All these companies were able to exist in India simultaneously as India was then not a single country but consisted of numerous independently ruled states and kingdoms.

The British East India Company was formed by a group of wealthy merchants and landowners. They successfully sought from Queen Elizabeth I a charter to trade exclusively with countries east of the Cape of Good Hope (Africa) and West of the Straits of Magellan (South America). Their first base was established in Surat on the NW coast of India in 1608 followed a few years later by one at Masulipatnam (central east coast). Clashes between EIC ships and those of other European companies was frequent. The EIC was not as successful as the Dutch in sourcing spices as most of this type of cargo was being produced in the Indonesian islands where the Dutch successfully defended their interests.

At that time much of Northern India was under Mughal (Persian) rule. The EIC sought to gain exclusive trading rights with the Mughal held lands. They did this with the sanction of James I by means of a diplomatic mission to the then Emperor Jehanghir. It is claimed that

Jehanghir preferred to deal with someone representing another ruler rather than with lower status persons such as the merchants coming from other European countries. The mission was successful and they were granted exclusive trading rights in exchange for supplying Jehanghir with '*....all sorts of rich goods and rarities fit for my Palace*'. This enabled the EIC to expand its operations exporting mainly manufactured and printed textiles and silks, pepper and later Indigo in exchange for silver work crafted in England. By 1647 they had 23 factories (trading bases) around the Indian coast and one in China. Later, the Portuguese port of Bombay was gifted to England as part of Catherine de Braganza's dowry on her marriage to Charles II in 1662.

Elsewhere there was competition between the British and Dutch companies to secure spices from the Islands around Indonesia that lead to several Anglo Dutch wars. Both the French and Dutch also had interests in India that competed with the EIC. To support the Company, King Charles II granted EIC the right to command forces and fortresses to protect the Company interests, to make war and peace, to acquire territory and to exercise criminal and civil jurisdiction over their acquired areas. This was as much a practical act as anything. A reply to any request sent to England could take 12–18 months to arrive. A quicker reaction was required if their trading factories were under attack.

A base at Calcutta (initially called Fort William) was established in 1690. Success by the EIC at the battle of Plassey in 1757 is regarded as the time when the Company changed from being merely a trading company and became a conqueror of territory. The battle, about 150 km. north of Calcutta, was initiated by an attack by the Nawab of Bengal and his troops on Fort William to prevent the British from extending their fortifications. This was the site of the famous Black Hole of Calcutta massacre where many British were killed. Reinforcements were sought from their fort at Madras led by Colonel Robert Clive. Clive used his wiles to persuade an Indian army chief to defect together with his troops and Clive eventually defeated the Nawab and his French allies. After the victory Clive installed the Indian defector, Mir Jafar, as the new Nawab of Bengal. Through the Nawab, the EIC now had full control over Bengal with respect to trade and raising of revenue. It was not all straightforward, however, and there were many lesser skirmishes against local independent leaders that tried to exert their strength as the Moghul empire started to disintegrate. In addition, the EIC still had to contend with the French and over several wars managed to confine them to their capital territory of Pondicherry. Rather than enter into wars with many states controlled by Princes and Rajahs the EIC sought to establish trading agreements with them and provide them, in exchange, protection against being overrun by other neighbouring rulers.

This expansion of territory required a corresponding increase in forces. By 1803 the EIC had an army of about 260,000 troops (twice the size of the British army based at home). These were mainly native Indian soldiers commanded by about 15,000 British officers. Together with military power the EIC now assumed leadership in administrative and judicial affairs in the areas it controlled. The country was divided administratively into three Presidencies. Bengal in the North; Bombay in the West and Madras in the east. The Zamindars, the hereditary revenue raisers of the Moghul, were now used to collect a percentage of peasants' harvests to pay for the Company's activities.

Life in India was hard and short for many Europeans. The unfamiliar climate and conditions ripe for the spread of diseases meant that the mortality rate amongst recruits was high. It was often said that the life of a European in India was two monsoons.

Back in Britain an insatiable demand for tea had developed. The only source for tea at the time was from China and EIC ships were involved in the trade. To pay for the tea the Company traded opium from India to China. Later they managed to find out how to grow and

process tea plants and supported the establishment of tea plantations where the climate and soils were suitable in India.

To train their new recruits the EIC established two training facilities in England. In 1806 Haileybury College was opened in Hertfordshire. Here cadets were trained to eventually become administrators in India. Studies included Indian languages, law and politics. In 1809 they opened a military college to train Officer Cadets at Addiscombe in Surrey. Studies included more technical subjects such as mathematics and surveying as well as languages. Some of the Addiscombe graduates went on to be involved in the design of bridges, dams and canals enabling irrigation of crops increasing revenue to the Company as well as leading to greater increase in exportable goods. The EIC and later private entrepreneurs leased land from the Zamindars for the production of crops in demand such as cotton and indigo. Part and parcel of the lease would be the local villages and the peasants that used to work the land. This required governance on a local level to settle disputes as well as general management of agricultural practice.

A fleet of Company owned or chartered ships known as East Indiamen transported goods from the ports of Bombay, Galle (Ceylon), Madras, Calcutta and Whampoa (Guangzhou, China) to Britain. These ships would stop to re-provision at St Helena in the South Atlantic where the Company also maintained a small presence. The threat of piracy and attack by rivalling country forces such as the French often necessitated escort of fleets of Indiamen by heavily armed Royal Navy ships. In addition, the British Government had recognised that they needed at least a token military force on the subcontinent and so there was an ongoing rotation of British army forces stationed in India from the mid-eighteenth century. Many smaller, privately owned, ships known as 'Country Ships' were either contracted or worked as privateers to deliver goods from around the coast and neighbouring countries and islands to the main Indian ports for onward shipment.

By the mid-nineteenth century there was growing unrest amongst the native Indian troops. Some believe it was because the British Officers lost the respect of their men as they no longer led their troops from the front in engagements as they did in early days. With families from England now joining Officers they communicated less with the troops and their language skills suffered. This made them less able to pick up on the mood of their troops.

In 1857 the troops were issued with new paper cartridges for their muskets to speed up reloading. The cartridges combined a precise amount of gunpowder with each bullet. The cartridges had been manufactured in Britain and greased to waterproof them. Before loading, the end of the cartridge had to be bitten off to expose the powder for ignition. The error had been made in making the grease from animal fat which was defiling to both Hindu and Muslim troops. Although the error was quickly realised and new cartridges were issued that used a vegetable based grease, the damage had already been done. Troops believed that the Europeans were trying to impose their own religion on them. The first troops to mutiny were in Barrackpore, refusing to use the bullets. The troops were disarmed with the help of a British Regiment stationed nearby, but the situation in other nearby cities was not so readily quelled. Over the following months Meerut, Cawnpore, and Lucknow all suffered killing of both Native troops and European Officers and their families. The unrest spread to Delhi and the city was put under siege for several months. It took time for sufficient numbers of troops to move up from the southern Presidencies to suppress the mutineers. The rebellion only occurred within the Bengal army, and even there many native troops remained loyal to the EIC.

The following year Britain dissolved the EIC and took over Government of the Subcontinent. A new era known as the British Raj began. Queen Victoria was named Empress of India, and she promised Indian subjects the same rights as other British subjects. The

army was reorganised with a proportionally larger reduction in the size of the Bengal army where the mutiny occurred compared with the armies of the other Presidencies.

The latter half of the nineteenth century saw a major growth in infrastructure. Railways, irrigation canals and roadworks were constructed either by private companies or government investment. Industrialisation in Britain saw a reduction in the export of manufactured goods from India such as textiles and a move to raw materials such as cotton. Goods such as metal implements, machinery and crockery were now being exported from Britain to India. Domiciled Europeans and those that had been born as the result of mixed race marriages, Anglo Indians, were given preference over indigenous people for administrative and supervisory roles in the railways and many government departments.

Indian troops fought voluntarily with British troops in both world wars even though there was considerable internal unrest over being governed from London. After World War II Britain gave in to demands and granted independence to India. Four separate countries were created India, Pakistan, Ceylon and later Burma. The creation of East and West Pakistan as a secular Muslim country, driven by Ali Jinnah, the leader of the All India Muslim resulted in mass migration to and from Pakistan. The violence resulting from this was the cause of the death of more than a million people and many more as refugees in both countries.

In the years following Indian independence from Britain, many Anglo-Indians migrated to the British Isles, Canada and Australia. Good employment prospects in England resulted in many Indian and Pakistani nationals immigrating to work in the industrial areas such as London and the midlands. Now, more than 50 years after Independence, both Muslim and Hindu families live in Northern India, but there is still some unrest between them. Anglo-Indian, Portuguese and Jewish people, descendants of those that "stayed on" after Independence can be found throughout India but they are minority groups.

Chapter 2

THE EARLE FAMILY IN DEVON

I originally assumed that the surname Earle and all of its various spellings had derived from a title given to a particular class of nobleman. After reading a book on the Earle families in the USA (Newton, 1925) I concluded that the surname, of most of the Devonshire Earles at least, had a different origin. This book seems to be the only published reference with respect to the genealogy of the Earle families. The subject of the book, as inferred by the title, was the Earle families that lived in Secaucus, New Jersey and spread to other regions of the USA. There is, however, some information about the Earle families that resided in various counties of England. The genealogy is incomplete and not supported by references. As younger sons and daughters did not usually inherit the estate but were obliged to find their own way in life, records concerning them were not always kept. Undoubtedly there would have been many

Distribution of the Earle Name in Britain

There were two, maybe three, separate concentrations of the Earle name in England according to an analysis of surname distribution in the 1881 census of Britain. The name is strongest in County Durham. Perhaps this reflects the migration from rural areas to the mining and industrial areas in the 19th century. The distribution also suggests that there were two Earle lines, the northern, and the southern. This is compatible with the inability of the Reverend Earle's researches to find a strong link between the Lancashire Earles and the d'Erleigh families. The map over the page shows the concentration of the Earle surname. This is from a research project by the University College of London and incorporates electoral roll data as well. The darker the colour the higher the concentration of the name in that area.

Occurrence in Church Registers in Devon

In the church registers currently available online, records seem to be from about 1600 (early years are hard to read and in Latin). The name Earle (or Erle or Earl) appears regularly in the Ashburton church registrations from 1610 (burial of Joanna) and 1613 (birth of Richardus) through to the burial of Susanna in 1894. In Devon, the other area where a lot of "Earles" occur in the church registrations, is Newton Abbott about 10 km from Ashburton.



Ashburton Church, Ashburton, Devon
Source: <https://www.devonguide.com/photos/ashburton-church.htm>

Origin of the Earle name and genealogy through the middle ages

Surnames first began to be used in England about 1050. The surnames of nobles or landowners were derived from their estates whereas lower classes would derive their name from their trade eg Smith, Fletcher etc; where they lived Green, Hurst and so on or perhaps a distinguishing characteristic such as Large or Brown.

The earliest ancestor of the Earle family in SW England that was identified is John de Erlegh, who lived at Beckington, Somersetshire, England, about 1150. His family was from the town of Earley which is near Reading, Berkshire where they were Lords of the manor (hence the name de Erlegh meaning of Earley or Erlegh). It is unclear whether the family were Norman, coming over with William the Conqueror, or Saxon.

The Reverend's chapter on Somerset briefly describes the head of each generation of the family and his activity. Younger sons in each generation would have moved away from the main family seat forming their own side branch and estate, sometimes expanding and sometimes the line petering out.

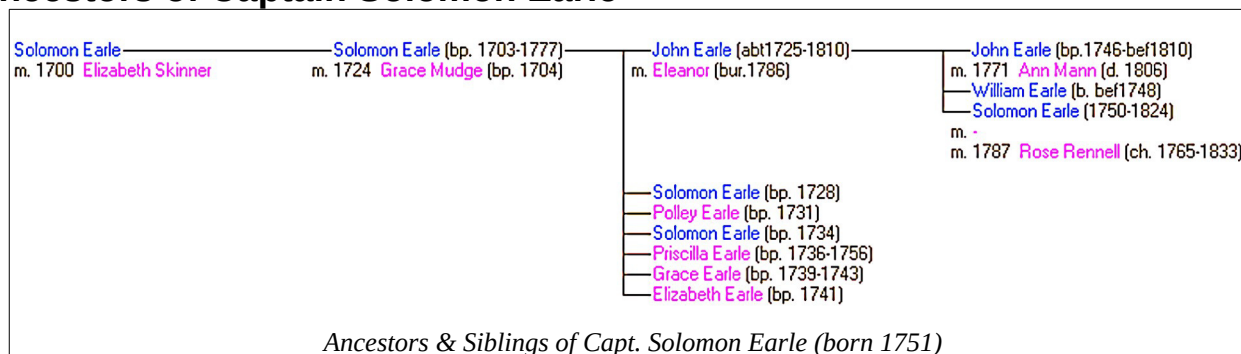
In 1288 the head of the family, John de Erleigh, was Sheriff of the counties of Somerset and Dorset. In 1308 he was a Knight of the Shire for Somerset and in 1315 he first used his coat of arms on his seal (three escallops within a bordure engrailed, and tinctured gules and argent). In the town of Somerton the church there has a wall plaque dedicated to the family De Erleigh and there is a manor house in the Parish previously known as Somerton Erleigh.

A later John de Erleigh (1334-1410) known as "The White Knight" was wounded and taken prisoner in Spain. He was held to ransom and had to sell much of his ancestral lands to buy his freedom.

A grand-daughter of the White knight, Margaret de Erleigh, was married three times and had children by each of her husbands. A daughter from her marriage to Sir Walter Sondes (Knight) married John Erle (d 1484) of Ashburton and Culhampton, Devonshire. The White Knight had three younger sons, Robert, Richard and Philip and one of these is believed to have been the father or grandfather of a John Erle, of Ashburton. It seems that both John Erle and his wife Margaret de Sondes were great grandchildren of the White Knight. The main support for John Erle being descended from the White Knight is that his coat of arms was the same as that of the White Knight.

The Reverend's chapter on the Devonshire Earles only lists 3 generations taking the family to the mid 1500s.

Ancestors of Captain Solomon Earle

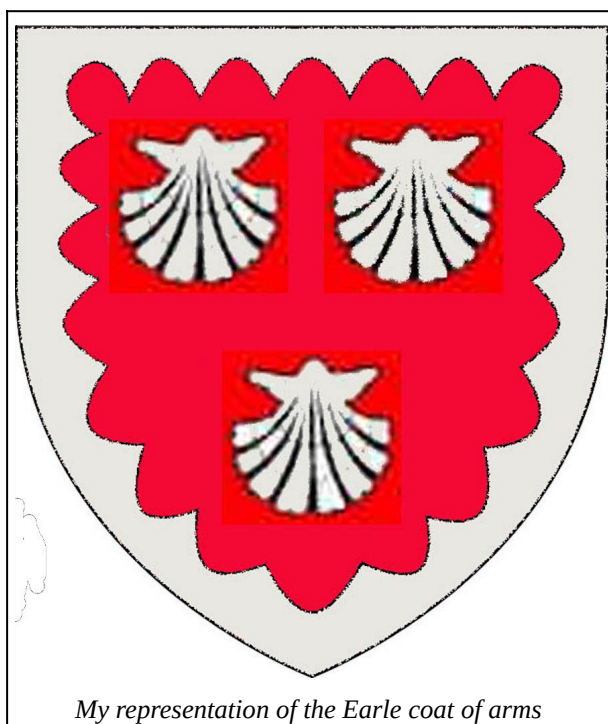


Captain Solomon Earle's father, John, was born and died in Ashburton and was one of seven children. His father, Solomon, was baptised in nearby Ilsington in 1703. It is hard to be sure if people are direct ancestors or cousins from church registers earlier than this as there is not always a lot of information such as name of wife, residence, or occupation. There is record of a Solomon Earle who was a tailor in Ashburton in 1752.

The chart above is my best estimate of who was born and died and their relationship. An examination of land tax records for 1780 indicates that a Solomon Earle had several properties that he paid tax on (his name is mainly hidden by the smudge of ink. These may have been Captain Solomon's grandfather or uncle. At this time Captain Solomon was still in India. Captain Solomon's family must have had a reasonably high standing in the community for him to have a Letter of Introduction to take with him to India from the local member of parliament for Ashburton Sir Robert Palk. I suspect that in the above Assessment Solomon was his grandfather and John was his father. Possibly Solomon the tailor was the Solomon in the chart born 1728.

Owner	Assessment	Tax	Other
Mr. James Finch	himself	10	0 0
Mr. Solomon Earle for the tything share	Ditto	0	6 0
Ditto Late Jorgisons	Ditto	0	3 0
Ditto Late Port of his Tithers	Ditto	0	2 0
Ditto Late Topshams	himself	0	2 6
Mrs. J. Earle Late Courtways	Ditto	0	4 0
Ditto Late Mills	Ditto	0	1 3
Ditto Late Sangdons	Ditto	0	1 0
Ditto for Crownhills	Ditto	0	1 0
Mr. Andrews Late Norrworthyys	James	0	3 6

Land Tax Assessment for Ashburton 1780



Could either of these people above have ancestors in common with the Earles of Ashburton?
(Reprinted with permission of the National Portrait Gallery).

Chapter 3

CAPTAIN SOLOMON EARLE & ROSE RENNELL

Solomon Earle (1750-1824) m. - m. 1787 Rose Rennell (ch. 1765)	Sophia Earle (1780-1849) m. 1804 Richard Lipscombe (abt1780-bur. 1843) -2- Elfrida Earle (b. 1788) m. 1813 Gabriel Mathias (1790-1839) -2- John Lucas Earle (1791-1845) m. 1817 Mary J. Lempriere (abt1799-1890) -2- Marianne Earle (b. 1792) m. 1810 William Lempriere (1763-1834) -2- William H. Earle (1794-1846) m. 1821 Jane Shadwell (b. 1805) -2- Solomon Earle (1797-1858) m. Elizabeth - m. 1819 Bridget Maples (1799-1875) -2- Susannah Earle (1798-1871) m. 1840 Louis S. Bird (1792-1874) -2- Eleanor Earle (b. abt1803) m. 1824 Edward C. Mathias (1801-1839) m. 1840 Charles E. Oneill -2- Rosalie D. Earle (bp. 1805-1883) m. 1825 William Sheaffe (d. 1860) -2- Emily Susan Earle ([1807-1812]-1899) m. 1823 Frederick Ranie (aft1802-1859) m. 1866 Samuel de Williams -2- Mary Ann Earle (d. 1816)
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EARLE, Solomon. Captain. 30th N.I. Subsequently Paymr. to Coy.'s Depot at Chatham. Cadet 1768. Arrived in India 21 Aug. 1768. Ensign 13 Feb. 1769. Lieut. 15 May 1770. Capt. 21 Aug. 1779. Struck off 1793. (Was living in 1824.)

m. Ashburton, Devon, Aug. 1787, Rose, dau. of Rev. Thomas Rennell, of Stokenham, Devon. Father of John Lucas Earle, q.v., Solomon Earle, q.v., and William Henry Earle, q.v.

Services : Apptd. Cadet on 29 Dec. 1767. Posted to 17th Bn. Sepoys in 1769. Transfd. to 2nd Bn. in 1776. First Mahratta War 1778-84 ; succeeded to comd. of 2nd Bn. 21 Aug. 1779 ; siege and capture of Ahmedabad ; action at Pawangarh ; Capt. comdg. 2nd Bn. Resdt. at court of Baroda 1781-3. To comd. 1/30th N.I. 1784. Fur. s.c. 3 yrs. 6 Dec. 1785, and was still on fur. in 1790. Apptd. Capt. and Adj. of the Coy.'s Recruit Depot in I.W. June 1804 ; Capt. and Paymr. do. Apr. 1814 till 1816, latterly at Chatham. Retired on pension in 1816.

Refs. : E.I.M.C. ii. 368-75. Williams, p. 88. G.M. 1787, ii. 835.

Captain Solomon Earle, Services

Copied Extract from List of the Officers of the Bengal Army, 1758-1834, by V. C. P. Hodson

Captain Solomon Earle was baptised in Ashburton, Devon in 1750 (Erle, 1750). When Solomon was about sixteen years old he left home for London with the intention of travelling to India to work for the Honourable East India Company (HEIC) as a writer in Calcutta. On

arrival in London, he discovered that no more appointments of writers were to be made that year. The decision was made that he would go out to India as a Cadet in the Company's Bengal Army. The alternative was to return home and wait another year before joining the Company's Civil Service. He took with him to India, letters of introduction from Mr Sullivan, a Director of the East India Company and from Sir Robert Palk who was the Member of Parliament for Ashburton and a past Chaplain of the EIC. He was actually eighteen and a half years old when he arrived in India.

Solomon spent 18 eventful years in India rising to the rank of Captain. He left a memoir of his time in India and extracts from this were, in part, published as a booklet by his descendant Percy Hale Sheaffe more than 50 years after his death (Appendix 1). It is fortunate that there are several published documents relating to Solomon that are readily available. They give a good outline of Solomon's activities whilst in India. The East India Military Calendar ([EIMC](#)) published in 1824 bears testament to Solomon's success as a military man with a footnote that I have reproduced below:

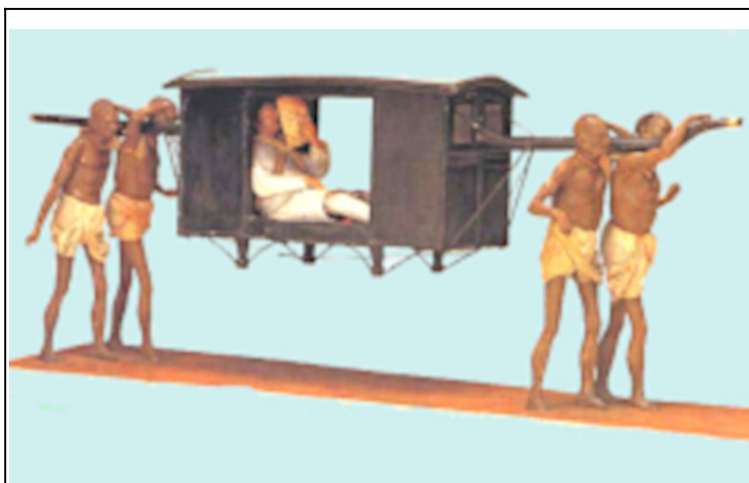
As a reason for introducing the services of this officer in a work, the original plan of which, did not embrace those under the rank of Field Officer; the Editor begs to observe, that had Capt. Earle continued on the strength of the army, he would now have stood among the Lieut-Generals of the Bengal Establishment. Further, his services, though performed under a subordinate designation of rank, do honour to the Indian army and the period of time to which they have reference.

He was one of only two officers with the rank of Captain to be included in the Calendar. A request for him to provide information to the editor for inclusion in this book may have been the prompt for him to write the memoir of his experiences referred to above.

Like most Officers serving in India, Solomon's career involved several moves from Battalion to Battalion according to demand at the time for someone of his rank. In June 1770 he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and to Captain seven years later. He was involved in several conflicts with rising responsibility over the years. There is mention of one conflict against a native chief who was rebelling against the EIC's rule where Solomon was in command of a party of 80-100 men. He saw the enemies fires at night and so at the break of day they were able to locate and subsequently surround the enemy. In the EIMC it is stated: The number of prisoners far exceeded in quantity the strength of Lieut. Earle's party.

Upwards of 800 cattle and 400 goats were also captured as well as other plunder. In those days, after a battle all troops would share in the plunder from the defeated side, the higher the rank the greater the share. This was known as prize money. Due to Solomon's success in the encounter, the Chief begged a truce and subsequently agreed to peace and paid all his arrears to the Company. The Commanding Officer thanked Solomon in Public Orders for his part in the victory.

Shortly after this Solomon went to Balasore (a port town on the Bay of Bengal) for six months to recover his health. On his return from Balasore to Midnapore his health was still bad and he was being carried in a Palanquin when a party of Mahrattas that the



A Palanquin and Bearers, source; Banglapaedia Kahar.jpg

army were fighting surrounded him. His bearers took flight leaving him alone to face the enemy.

The chief of the party demanded his baggage, but Solomon told him that it had gone on ahead and the chief's men had, in all probability, already captured it. The chief, seeing his poor state of health, took pity on Solomon and ordered his men to go and find his bearers and tell them they would have nothing to fear for the rest of their journey. The chief was true to his word and they were able to complete the journey unmolested. There are several other interesting accounts of Solomon's encounters described in both his memoirs and the EIMC.

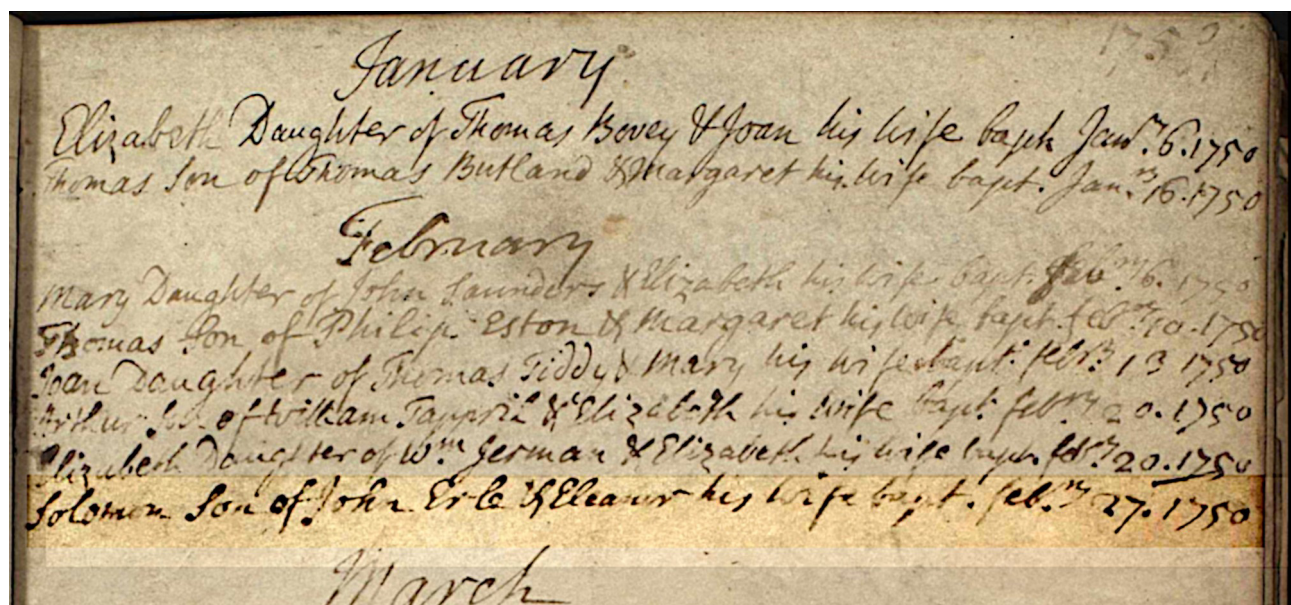
Solomon served for some time under Lieutenant Colonel Goddard who seemed to have recognised his abilities and taken a liking to him. About 1781, the then Brigadier General Goddard introduced Solomon to the Rajah of Baroda, Futy Singh, as his adopted son. Subsequently, Solomon was appointed as Resident at the Rajah's Court representing the EIC in military, administrative and trade deals with the Maharajah's State. He remained in this position for about three years. During this time he probably made extra income by undertaking private trading as well as looking after EIC interests.

Solomon returned to England late 1786 after being granted three years furlough due to ill health. Almost exactly one year after his return to Ashburton, he married 22 year old Rose Rennell, daughter of the Vicar of Stokenham, Devon (Earle, 1787). Solomon was 37 years old.

The image shows a handwritten marriage certificate on a piece of aged, yellowed paper. At the top, the names 'Solomon Earle' and 'Rose Rennell' are written in cursive. Below this, the text reads: 'Nº 264 } Solomon Earle of the Parish Batchelor & Rose Rennell of the same Parish Spinster were Married in this Parish by Licence this 18 Day of Aug^r in the Year One Thousand seven Hundred and eighty seven By me Rob^t. Dalk Willard Curate'. The names 'Solomon Earle' and 'Rose Rennell' are written in cursive. Below this, the text reads: 'This Marriage was solemnized between Us { Solomon Earle Rose Rennell'. The names 'Solomon Earle' and 'Rose Rennell' are written in cursive. Below this, the text reads: 'In the Prefence of { John Earle Thos Hamlyn Thennell Mary Rennell Mary Rennell'. The names 'John Earle', 'Thos Hamlyn', 'Thennell', 'Mary Rennell', and 'Mary Rennell' are written in cursive. At the bottom, the text reads: 'Marriage Solomon Earle & Rose Rennell Ashburton 18 August 1787 (FMP)'. The text 'Marriage Solomon Earle & Rose Rennell Ashburton 18 August 1787 (FMP)' is printed in a small, black, sans-serif font.

At the end of his three years of furlough, Solomon applied for and was granted permission to remain an additional year in Europe. At the end of this period, he was about to board ship to sail for Calcutta when he was prevented by the state of Rose's health. After her recovery in 1791 (and following the birth of daughter Elfrida), he applied to return to his duties in India but was told that it was against Company regulations as he had exceeded the time specified in his furlough. He was then struck off the HEIC list.

I don't know much about what Solomon did in the 18 year period following his return from India. It seems that he was in Ashburton in 1791 and 1794 where his sons, John and William and daughter Marianne were baptised. In the Universal British Directory for the period 1793-1798 Solomon was listed as one of two "Gentlemen" resident in Ashburton. In those days being referred to as a Gentleman usually meant that the person lived off income from land that he owned.



Solomon Earle, Baptism record, Ashburton, Devon 27 February 1750 (image source: FMP)

Solomon was renting a property in The Paragon, Southwark, London when his third son Solomon and third daughter Susannah were born and baptised. There is a listing for a Solomon Earl, merchant at 20 Axe street, St Marys that may be a business of his using his EIC contacts to import and export goods, although by this time he was working on the Isle of Wight (Directories took time to compile and publish).

In 1805 Solomon sought appointment to the new East India Company Depot on the Isle of Wight, and he was appointed as Captain and Adjutant. In 1814 he was assigned the additional role of Paymaster at the same Depot but by 1817 he had transferred to the Company's Chatham Depot as Paymaster. It is possible that he owned his house in the Isle of Wight whilst he was working and living there 1805-1815 and to where he returned when he retired from EIC, although this cannot be confirmed from his will. Solomon retired from the East India Company's service whilst Paymaster at the Chatham Depot in 1817 on a pension of £300 per annum. He died in December 1824 at his home, Mill House, Clatterford on the Isle of Wight.

Solomon mentioned ten children who were alive when he prepared his will in February 1824, three sons and seven daughters. Whiddon estate (referred to in his will) appears under Solomon's ownership for the first time in the tax Assessment records for the area in 1813 and is shown as rented out to a John Smerdon.

There is a record of a long-winded, but amusing, discussion undertaken by the directors of the Honourable East India Company regarding payment of a pension of £300 per annum to Captain Solomon Earle. One Director Mr Hume gave a speech against awarding his pension. He stated that Solomon had only served the Company for 12 years and was going to receive a pension of

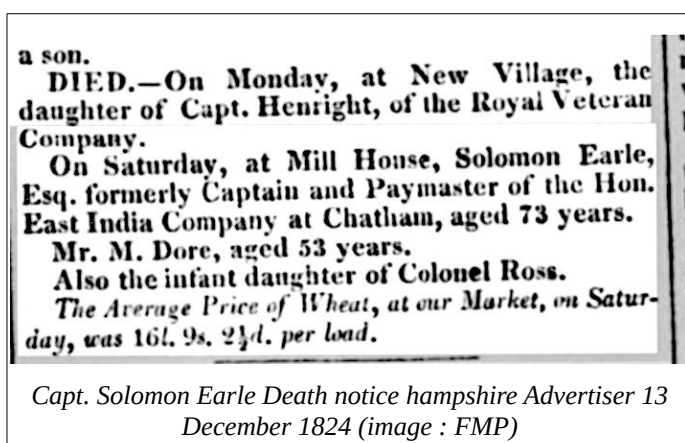


Remnant of the mill race, Clatterford
Solomon lived in the mill house, possible house remains to left of the race (photo: R Adams)

about three-quarters the pay he received as paymaster. He also pointed out that there was no evidence to show that Solomon could not perform his duties. Mr Hume stated that he, himself, was once paymaster for 20,000 men and carried out his duties almost without moving from his desk. He argued that

.....if Captain Earle were so gouty and infirm as not to be able to move from one room to another, still, if he could sit in his chair, he might be capable of performing the duties of his office.....!

The Chairman and a Mr. E. Parry spoke for Solomon's case pointing out that, in addition to his 12 years as a Paymaster, he had some 20 years before that served meritoriously in India for nineteen years. It was also stated that they believed that he would not live 12 months longer because of his infirmities. Another spoke up about the salary of the new Paymaster. He noted that his salary would only be £250 per annum so the extra cost on the company by paying the pension was not as much as what had been at first assumed. The debate continued discussing the source of the funds but in the end they agreed to pay Solomon his pension. The discussion can be found in [Google Books \(1817\)](#).



Solomon lived for another seven years after his retirement in 1817. One year after his retirement the family (probably just him, Rose and daughters Rosalie and Emily) made a trip up to Greystead in Northumberland. I know this as Emily was baptised there by her uncle George Rennell who had just been made Rector of the church in the village. This must have been a challenging journey for an ailing man at the beginning of the 19th century. Probably the most comfortable way to travel would be by ship from London to

Newcastle and possibly up the River Tyne and North Tyne by boat as well before taking a carriage the remainder of the journey. There is more to read about Rector George Rennell in the section on the Rennell family following.

Solomon's will (original text [here](#) or my transcript in Appendix 2) was proven in The Prerogative Court of Canterbury. This court was only used for persons who have an estate of considerable value or property in several jurisdictions. The essence of the will was that he named his 10 children and left each of them one share in the Grand Western Canal. He requested that all his plate, books and family pictures be shared equally between nine of the children (excluding Sophia). The next part of the will was hard to interpret but as I understand it the executors were to have assessed the value of all his furniture and household effects, together with all his lands and to offer at full value to each of the three sons in turn (oldest first, youngest last). Each was given six months to decide whether to purchase the estate or not. If none of the sons purchased the estate then the executors were to sell the lot and invest the money in Government, East India Co. or real sureties. Income from the investment was then to be used to ensure that his wife Rose had a combined annual income (allowing for any other payment due to her such as a pension from HEIC.) of at least £100. When the daughters married they were to receive a sum of £400 and until they were married they were to receive an annual sum of £100. The residue of his estate, once all daughters were married and Rose was deceased, was to be divided equally between each of the 10 children (Sophia specifically included here).

Solomon was specific how Sophia was to receive her inheritance; No money was to be paid directly to her but the executors were to set up a trust in their names to pay the dividends to Sophia exclusive of her husband and upon her death the money was to go to any of her daughters and sons. Solomon's sons did not purchase any property as several years after his death Whiddon Estate was put up for sale and advertised in several of the local papers. One advertisement also mentioned a Tin mine on the land.

His army career and tales of India must have had a big impact on his sons as all three of them subsequently went out to India as Cadets in the HEIC Bengal Native Infantry. All but one of his seven daughters married military men and at least one, Susannah, went out to India and married a military man there. Captain Solomon Earle was buried in the Churchyard of St Mary the Virgin, Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight, Hampshire. The gravestone no longer exists as the authorities decided to clear all the old graves several years ago.

June 3rd, 1828.

VALUABLE FREEHOLD ESTATE,
Near ASHBURTON;
LAND TAX REDEEMED.

By Mr. Hoggart,
At the Mart, London, on **FRIDAY, JUNE 27, at Twelve,**
BY DIRECTION OF THE EXECUTORS OF THE LATE
SOLOMON EARLE, ESQ.

LOWER WHIDDON FARM,
A CAPITAL FREEHOLD PROPERTY,

ABOUT a Mile from Ashburton, in the County of Devon; comprising a good Farm House, Stable, Barn, Beast House, Cart Shed, and other Out-Buildings, and Ninety-Two Acres and Thirty-Three Perches of Meadow, Pasture, Arable, and Wood Land, exonerated from the Land Tax, in the occupation of Mr. JOHN SHERDON; on Lease, at a Rent of £20 per Annum, exclusive of Twenty-One Acres, One Rood, and Twenty-Five Perches of Wood Land, which are in hand. Attached to the Estate is a Right of Common, on Ashburnham Down.

May be viewed on Application; Particulars had of Mr. PARHAM, Solicitor; and at the Golden Lion, Ashburton; the New London Inn, Exeter; the Bedford Inn, Tavistock; Messrs. J. and S. PEARCE, PHILLIPS, and BOLGER, Solicitors, No. 10, St. Swithin's Lane; at the Mart; and of Mr. HOGGART, No. 62, Old Broad Street, Royal Exchange, London.

Dated June 9th, 1828.

Auction notice for Whiddon Estate
North Devon Journal 1828 (image FMP)





Map of Southern England showing towns in Devon (Google maps)



Map of part of Devon County showing towns relevant to the Earle family (adapted from Google maps)

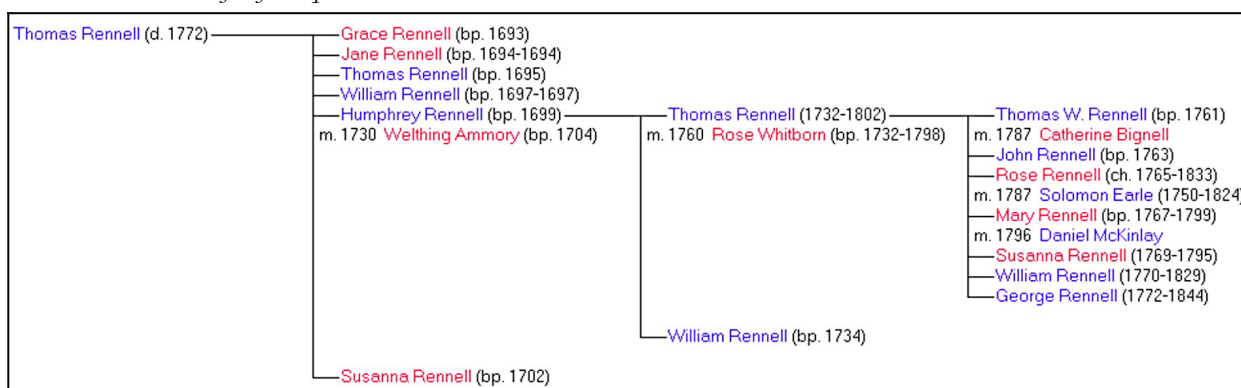
Siblings of Solomon

Solomon had at least two older brothers. This may explain why he signed up for the HEIC. Younger brothers did not usually inherit any land in those days.

His oldest brother, John, seemed to have been a farmer (probably inherited from his father and grandfather) and it seems that when Solomon came back from India he had land in the Ashburton area that he may have rented to John. John married Ann Mann who had four children but it seems the boys died before their father who died about 1810. In his will he left everything to his daughter Eleanor (married name Drew) his wife Ann having died about 4 years earlier than him.

The Rennell Family

Rose Rennell was the wife of Capt. Solomon Earle



Captain Solomon Earle's wife was Rose Rennell. The family had a long history of association with the church in Devon, particularly in the area around Chudleigh. The famous geographer James Rennell also came from this area, however, I have not yet been able to determine his relationship to Rose. Rose's father, Thomas Rennell, was the vicar of Stokenham. It was there that he christened his four oldest children. Prior to that he was the Minister at St Petrox, Dartmouth where Rose and her two younger brothers were christened. At least two of Rose's brothers, William and George followed their father and joined the ministry.

Rose's great-grandfather Thomas Rennell was a curate for many years in Woodland, Devon. The only mention regarding Rose's grandfather, Humphrey Rennell, is that he was referred to as a Gentleman in the entry in Alumni Oxonienses (Wikisource.org) for his son Thomas.

Rose's father, Thomas, was buried in the Lady's Chapel in the Stokenham Church where a commemorative plaque was erected. His son, George, was officiating Curate at his burial. (Stokenham, 1802)

Siblings of Rose

Rose was the third child of seven children born to Thomas Rennell and his wife Rose Whitborn. I have found little information about her two older brothers, Thomas Whitburne Rennell (who married Catherine Bignell in Plymouth, 1787) and John Rennell (born 1763). Rose also had two younger sisters, Mary and Susanna. Mary married Daniel McKinlay in St Margaret Moses church in London (1796). Witnesses to their marriage were Solomon and

Rendle, Harry Richards, 3s. Edmund, of Plymouth, Devon, D. Med. BRASENOSE COLL., matric. 30 Nov., 1866, aged 19; B.A. 1870, M.A. 1873, curate of St. Barnabas, Oxford, 1871, until his death 30 March, 1874.

Rennell, George, s. Thomas, of Stockenham, Devon, cler. EXETER COLL., matric. 15 April, 1791, aged 18, B.A. 1795; M.A. from EMMANUEL COLL., Cambridge, 1804, rector of Greystead, Northumberland, 1818, until his death 31 Oct., 1841.

Rennell, Thomas, s. Thomas, of Drewsteinton, Devon, doctor. CHRIST CHURCH, matric. 24 May, 1737, aged 18; B.A. 1741, M.A. 1750, rector of Bernack and Woodford, Northants, 1770, and preb. of Winchester 1792, until his death 2 March, 1798, father of Thomas, dean of Winchester and master of the Temple. See *Gent. Mag.*, 1840, i. 654. [30]

Rennell, Thomas, s. Humphrey, of Bovey Tracey, Devon, gent. EXETER COLL., matric. 16 March, 1752, aged 19; B.A. 1756 (? vicar of Stokenham, Devon, and father of the next named).

Rennell, William, s. Thomas, of Stokenham, Devon, cler. ST. ALBAN HALL, matric. 30 March, 1792, aged 21; B.A. 1795, curate of Moreleigh, Devon, 1796, chaplain royal navy, died at Starcross, Devon, 1829.

Rennett, Hugh Percy, s. Godfrey, of St. Mary's, Lambeth, Surrey, gent. WORCESTER COLL., matric.

*Entries for Rennell in Alumni Oxoniensis
1715-1836*

Rose. Mary died in 1799 as did an infant son. They are both buried in the graveyard of the church of St George the Martyr in Southwark, London. Susanna died in her 26th year (1795) and is also buried in the same graveyard. Both sisters and Mary's son are commemorated on a plaque in the church at Stokenham that was erected in memory of their father.

Rose's two youngest brothers both joined the Royal Navy as Chaplains and some details follow.

William Rennell

William gained his BA from Oxford when he was 21 years old in 1795 and received a posting as Curate at Morleigh in Devon. By 1800 he had joined the Royal Navy as a Ship's Chaplain and was serving aboard HMS *Warrior* mainly patrolling the English Channel.

361 William Rennell. Chaplain.				Time.			
Ship.	Entry.	Quality	Discharge.	Y.	M.	W.	D.
<i>Warrior</i>	29 April 1800	Chaplain	14 Aug ^r 1800		3	3	6
<i>5th</i>	2 Sept ^r 1800	"	29 Jan. 1801		5	1	3
<i>6th</i>	26 Feb ^r 1801	"	30 July 1802	1	5	2	1
<i>Athenian</i>	11 April 1804	"	29 Oct ^r 1805	1	7	-	6
<i>Formidable</i>	1 Nov ^r 1805	"	8 May 1811	5	6	3	-
<i>Egmont</i>	18 June 1811	"	14 Sept ^r 1812	1	3	1	8

William Rennell Naval
Service Record
Ref: ADM 196/68/643

In 1804 William was aboard HMS *Athenian*, a ship captured from the French. On this ship he sailed to China escorting nine commercial vessels operated by the HEIC. The route must have been heavily dictated by winds as they went via Rio de Janeiro, and then rather than sail through the Indian Ocean and the Malacca Straits, because of the presence of French ships, they sailed south of Australia and through Bass Strait. Another reason for this route apparently was to also improve the charting of Bass Strait. When they arrived at Norfolk Island the colonists panicked as they thought that they were being invaded by a French fleet. The return trip from China was more direct sailing through the Indian Ocean around the Cape of Good Hope and up to St Helena before onward to England. The whole trip took about 19 months.

After a few months ashore William joined HMS *Formidable*, a 98 gun ship, and served in the Baltic and Mediterranean seas for the next six years. His next ship was HMS *Egmont* which he served on for about a year. It is not known what happened to William after this time but he is believed to have died in Starcross, Devon in 1829 at 59 years of age (Wikisource.org, 1715-1836).

George Rennell

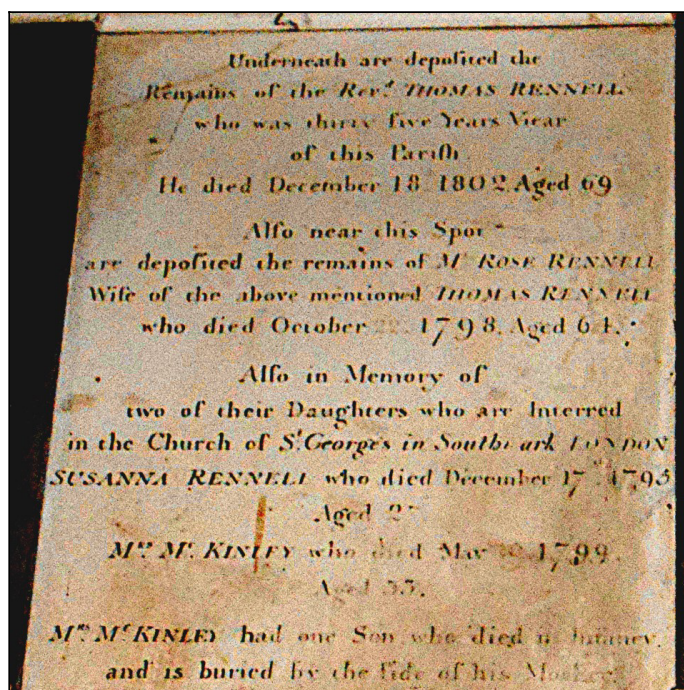
George Rennell. Chaplain				Time.			
Ship.	Entry.	Quality.	Discharge.	Y.	M.	W.	D.
<i>Zealous</i>	7 July 1805	Chaplain	26 Oct 1808	3	1	-	-
<i>Revenge</i>	3 Jan 1810	"	20 Sept 1810		11	-	5
<i>Raisonné</i>	26 April 1811	"	3 March 1812		9	1	2
<i>Albion</i>	4 March 1812	"	12 Dec 1812		10	-	4
<i>Northumberland</i>	5 May 1813	"	27 May 1813				26
<i>Bulwark</i>	28 May 1813	"	22 June 1815	2	-	3	5
<i>Bulwark</i>	28 June 1815	"	15 Aug 1816	1	1	3	-
<i>Bulwark</i>	17 Aug 1816	"	18 May 1818	1	9	3	2

George Rennell Naval
Service Record
Ref: ADM 196/68/644

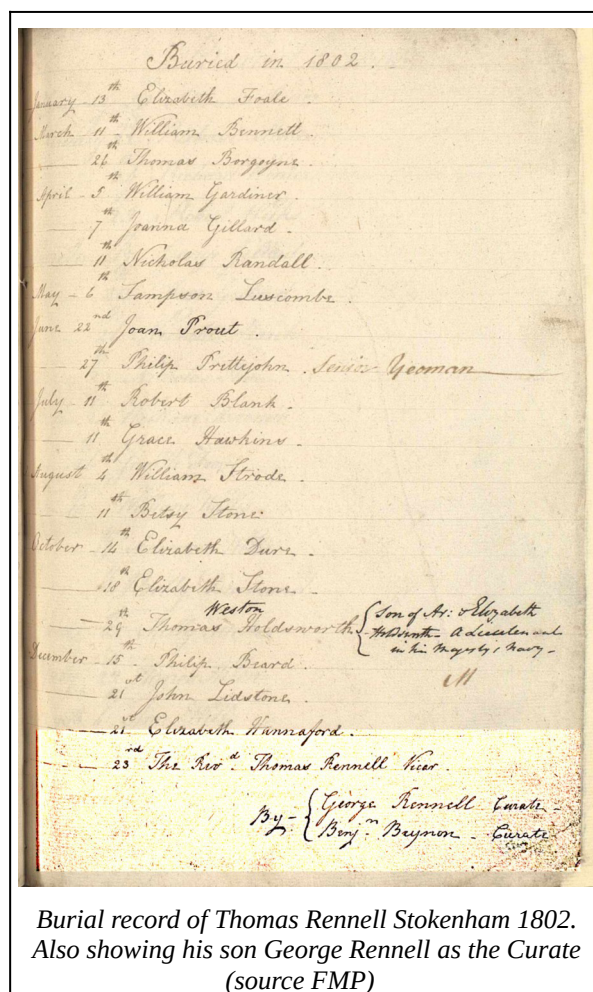
George gained his BA from Oxford and an MA from Cambridge in 1804. He then joined the Royal Navy. By 1805 he was serving aboard HMS *Zealous* where he stayed for the next five years. When the Battle of Trafalgar took place his ship had detached from Cadiz in Spain to Gibraltar to resupply. This caused them to miss the main action. He had a couple of short services aboard HMS *Revenge* and HMS *Raisonné* before joining HMS *Albion* for two years. This was the Flagship for Rear Admiral Cockburn. His fleet was involved in the battles with America in the Chesapeake Bay and Potomac rivers (The Battle of 1812). They also went ashore and Cockburn is famous for occupying Washington and setting fire to the White House and the Capitol. This was in part retaliation for American troops destroying private property in Canada on the northern shores of Lake Eyrie. On the day after he burned the White House, the then 42 year old Rear Admiral took revenge on a newspaper that had written negatively about him and branded him as 'The Ruffian'. Initially, Cockburn wanted to burn the offices of The National Intelligencer newspaper to the ground. After an appeal by locals, however, he relented and ordered his men to take apart the building brick by brick. He also took a special action to prevent them from printing articles about him. 'Make sure that all the C's in the printing works are destroyed' Cockburn reputedly told the soldiers, 'So that the rascals can have no further means of abusing my name'.

George was then appointed to HMS *Northumberland* and again under Cockburn. This was the ship commanded to take the recently recaptured Napoleon Bonaparte into exile on St Helena Island. I have written more about this trip, how I discovered the information and about how other family members were associated with Napoleon's downfall in Appendix 3.

On return to England George was stationed aboard HMS *Bulwark*. After the defeat of Napoleon at the battle of Waterloo there was a big downsizing of the Navy. George was then appointed as Rector to the newly created Parish of Greystead in Northumberland. He remained here for more than 20 years. In 1841 he moved into the Belle Grove Private Asylum in Newcastle upon Tyne where he died of asthma in his 70th year. In the church in Greystead (now a holiday rental) there is a plaque in his memory. He died in 1844 (not 1841 as stated in Alumni Oxonienses) and a plaque was erected to his memory in the church.



Plaque in the lady's Chapel, Stokenham.
It mentions Thomas Rennell, his wife Rose, their daughters
Susanna and Mary and Mary's son. (Source FMP)



Burial record of Thomas Rennell Stokenham 1802.
Also showing his son George Rennell as the Curate
(source FMP)

BELLE GROVE ASYLUM.

THIS celebrated **RETREAT** for the Reception of Twenty Insane or Nervous Persons, of Respectability, established upwards of Seventy Years, (situated in the Vicinity of Newcastle), has lately had Additions made to the Accommodations, the Pleasure Gardens enlarged, and other Means used to render it in every way comfortable.

From the very Retired, Airy, and Healthy Locality of this Establishment, it can be depended upon as most Eligible for those who require mental Quiet and every humane Attention to their Treatment.

There are now vacant Apartments for either a Lady or Gentleman.

No Paupers admitted.

Applications received by Dr. Alexander, 15, Saville Row, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Advertisement for the Belle Grove Asylum.
(Newcastle Courant 1841)

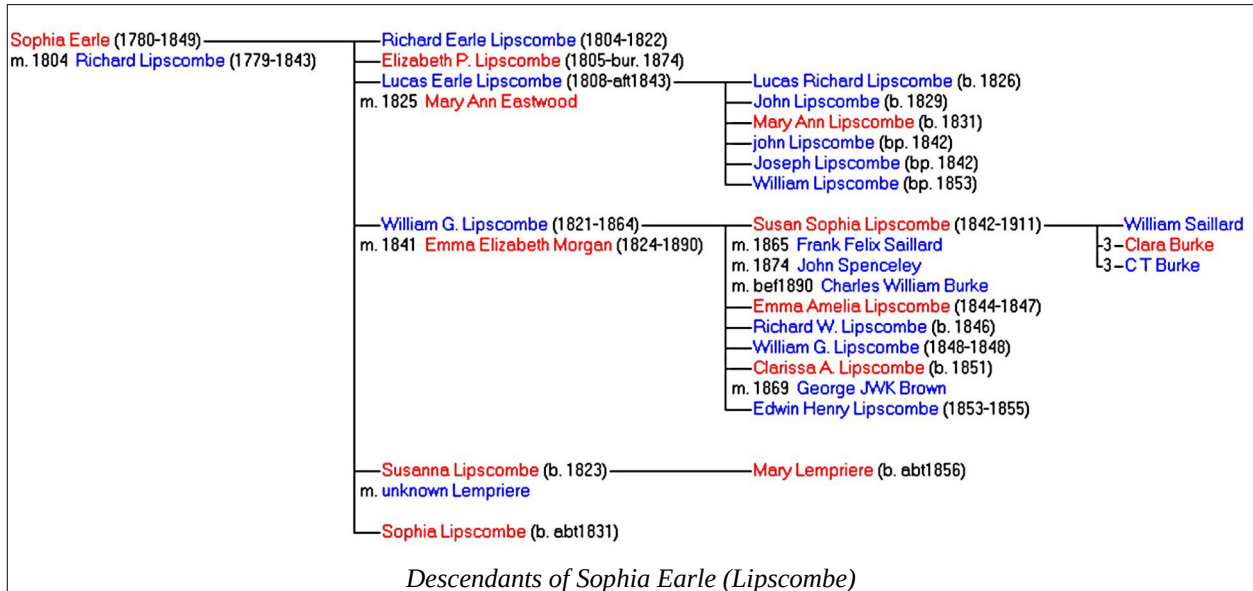


Commemorative stamp with a painting of HMS Northumberland

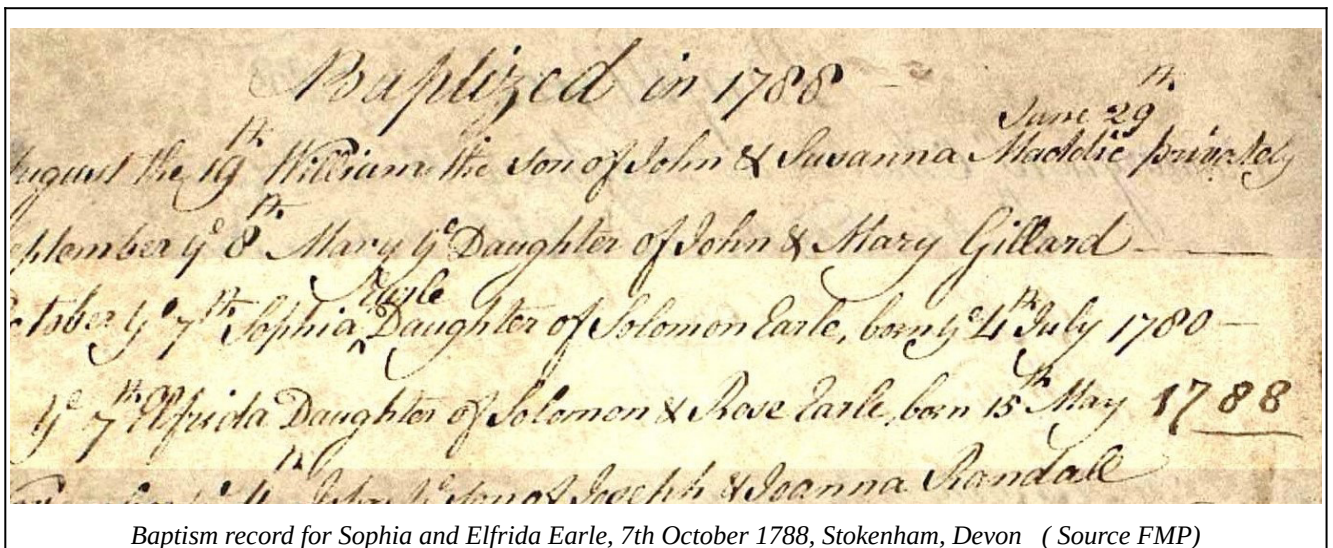
Chapter 4

SOPHIA EARLE & RICHARD LIPSCOMBE

Sophia was the 1st child of Capt. Solomon Earle



On Sophia's baptism record her birth date was given as 4 July 1780, however, she was baptised in 1788. Her baptism was in Stokenham, Devon at the same time as her younger sister, Elfrida, who was born approximately two months earlier (Stokenham, 1788). It is interesting that the record states that Sophia was the daughter of Solomon Earle and immediately underneath it is stated that Elfrida was the daughter of Solomon and Rose Earle. It also looks as though the record was amended to add the name Earle after Sophia's name, probably after Solomon checked the entry.



At the time of Sophia's recorded birth Solomon was in India. As far as I can ascertain (from his memoir extract) he was in the vicinity of Surat but just prior to becoming the Resident in Baroda. I suspect that Sophia is Solomon's daughter from an alliance in India with a local or a woman of mixed European and Indian blood.

Sophia is singled out in her father's will. She was specifically mentioned as being included to receive one share in the Great Western Canal, but she was excluded from receiving any shares in his household goods. She was specifically included to receive an equal share in the residue of his estate after his wife Rose's death, but this was to be invested by the trustees and the interest paid to Sophia until her death and thereafter her daughters (if any) would benefit and thereafter her sons. Solomon made a point of stating that the monies were not to be used to pay off any debts of Sophia's husband, Richard Lipscombe. Solomon refers to Richard in his will as '....late of Whitbourne Hereford, Yeoman'.

Sophia married Richard in Stepney 30 June 1804 but there is a baptism transcription for a Richard Earle Lipscombe who was born 21 January 1804 and baptised 22 February 1804 to Richard and Sophia in Rotherhithe, London (baptism 22/2/1804, Greenbank in the Parish of St John, Wapping). At this time Sophia's father Captain Solomon was living in Southwark, London.

Their son, Richard Earle died in 1822 and is buried in Shoreditch. Richard and Sophia had at least three more children Elizabeth (b.1805), Lucas Earle (b.1808), William George (b.1821) and Susanna (b.1822) the long period between the birth of Lucas Earle and William George suggests that there may be other children to be found. In the baptism record of Richard Earle, Richard senior's occupation is given as an upholsterer but on the baptism records for William George (1821) and Susanna (1823) it is recorded as 'Gentleman'. Perhaps he had received an inheritance by then.

Richard senior died in 1843. His will was administered in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (*PROB 11*; Piece:1982). He appointed Elizabeth and William as executors of his estate. Everything was to be held in trust, including a life insurance policy for £500. Elizabeth was to see that his wife Sophia was to '..... receive every comfort that she was accutomed to'. Upon Sophia's death all his surviving children were to receive equal shares except for his eldest surviving son Lucas Earle. It was stated that he had already received more than his proportionate share. Ten years earlier Lucas and his wife and three children had, under the poor law, been removed from the parish of St Leonard in Shoreditch to St John in Hackney. Money held in trust from Solomon Earle's estate was also mentioned in his will as was pay whilst he had been ill from his employers (The Indemnity Company).

Sophia died in 1849. Her address/place of death is given as Forest Row, Dalston, Hackney, Middlesex. The cause of death was recorded as 'general decay' and her occupation was given as 'widow of Lipscombe, Gentleman'.

A grand-daughter of Sophia (also called Sophia) immigrated to Australia and in 1890 was accused of murdering a baby. She was a midwife in Glebe, a Sydney suburb. She was acquitted but in the newspaper the trial was headlined as 'That Glebe Baby Farm Trial' (Sydney Evening News 16th October 1890 p4). The implication being that she was paid by the mother to take the baby and to organise an adoption.

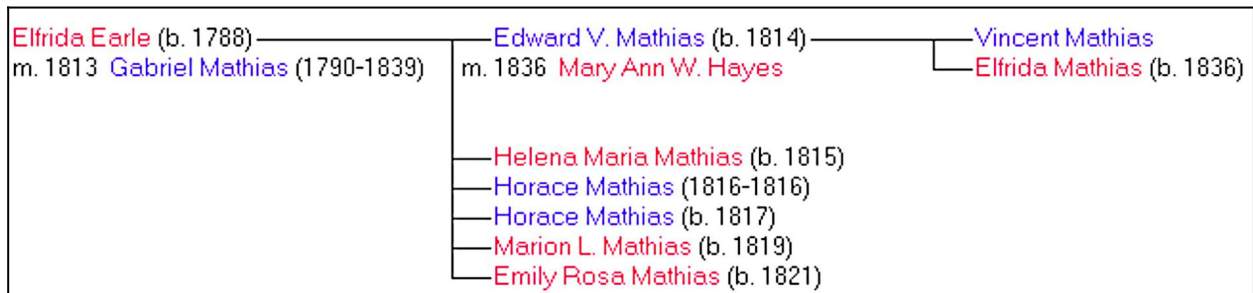


Susan Sophia Burke (née Lipscombe)
Source: Ancestry private tree

Chapter 5

ELFRIDA EARLE AND GABRIEL MATHIAS

Elfrida was the 1st child of Capt. Solomon Earle and Rose Rennell



Elfrida was the first-born child of Solomon and his wife Rose but was the second child of Solomon. She was baptised at Stokenham on the same day as her half sister Sophia (page 33).

Elfrida married Gabriel Mathias in Newport, Isle of Wight when she was 25 years old. The family were then living on the Isle of Wight as her father was Captain and Adjutant for the EIC training depot located at the Parkhurst Barracks on the island. Army records show that Gabriel entered the army at 16 years old and served in the Royal Artillery throughout his career rising to the rank of Captain. He served for part of his time in the West Indies. On retirement the family immigrated to Canada. The main thing of interest about Elfrida and Gabriel to the Earle family story is that they sailed to St Helena on the Northumberland with Napoleon Bonaparte as did Elfrida's uncle, George Rennell, who was the ship's Chaplain. Gabriel was one of only two officers to be accompanied by his wife on St Helena throughout Napoleon's captivity. Gabriel and Elfrida spent several years on St Helena as part of Napoleon's guard. I have written more about the Mathias family in the following section as another of Captain Solomon's daughters married into the Mathias family. Gabriel and Elfrida are also mentioned in Appendix 3.

[Page 201]

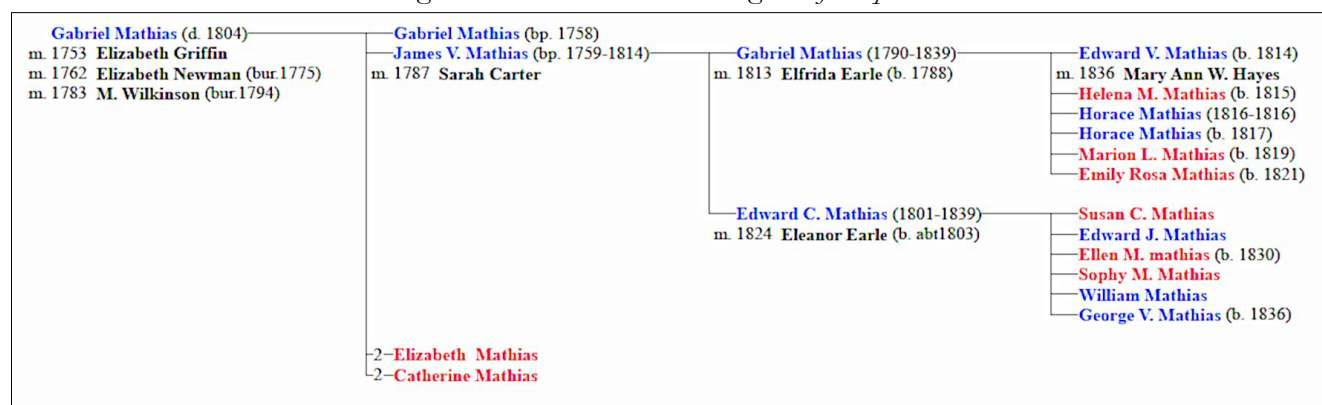
MARRIAGES solemnized in the Parish of Newport Isle of Wight
in the County of Southampton in the Year 1813

I, Gabriel Mathias of the Parish
of Freshwater, Bachelors
and Elfrida Earle of the Parish
of Stokenham
were married in this Church by Reverend with Consent of
this fifth Day of
August in the Year One thousand eight hundred and thirteen
By me P. Green
This Marriage was solemnized between us { Gabriel Mathias
Elfrida Earle
In the Presence of { Harrison, John Lewis
Elizabeth M. Green
No. 31

Marriage
Elfrida Earle and Gabriel Mathias
Newport, Isle of Wight 1813 (source FMP)

The Mathias Family

Gabriel Mathias and Edward Coleridge Mathias both married a daughter of Capt. Solomon Earle



The grandfather of Gabriel and Edward, Gabriel Mathias (d 1804), was employed by the Royal household in an administrative position from about 1770 to at least 1793 and possibly until his death in 1804 (Royal, 1779). Over the years he had three wives. Gabriel's first wife had at least two children, Gabriel and James Vincent Mathias. James was a witness to his father's marriage to his third wife Millicent. Gabriel married his second wife Elizabeth in Norfolk (also a widow) but he married his first and third wives in London. He died in 1804 and is interred in a vault in St Martin in the Fields with his second and third wives and John Mathias, who may have been a son from one of the marriages.

Gabriel's employment with the Royal household allowed his son, James Vincent Mathias, to be admitted as a 'poor scholar' to Charterhouse School from 1771 to 1776. Charterhouse was a school established in Godalming, Surrey in 1661 by a rich benefactor who also founded a hospital in the area. Charterhouse is now one of the most famous and expensive private schools in England

The biography from his entry in the Alumni for Charterhouse school students gives an outline of his military career. He joined the 6th Regiment of Foot and was made an Ensign in 1777; promoted to Lieutenant in 1779 and to Captain in the 62nd Regiment of Foot in 1782. He retired after a short service in 1787. James died at Stanhoe in Norfolk in 1814. His will is available from the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC, 1814). In the will he mentions two sisters and a brother as well as a fellow officer, James Coleridge, from Devon.

Two of his children that I have any information on are Gabriel and Edward.

1771. Scholars admitted.

1 Jan^y: This dāy **James Vincent Mathias** Son of Gabriel & Elizabeth Mathias baptiz'd 1st July 1759 in the Parish of S^t Paul Covent Garden was admitted a poor Scholar of this Foundation on the Nomination of the Queens Majesty in the Room & Place of Allen Fielding who hath lately been appointed to the University.

Left July 1776; entered the Army as Ensign 6th Foot in June 1777; Lieutenant 1779; Captain 62nd Foot 5 September 1782, retired 24 December 1787; died at Stanhoe Hall, Norfolk, 15 December 1814.

Brief biography of James Vincent Mathias
Source: Alumni Carthusiani - Foundation Scholars of Charterhouse (pub 1913)

		Grand Total		
		£	s	d
Brought Over		23624	19	4
<p><i>Money paid upon Dormant Warrants.</i></p> <p><i>This Accountant hath also issued & Paid upon several Dormant Warrants - under Her Majestys Royal Sign Manual to himself as Treasurer & Receiver General in lieu of Poundage on Bills - To the Secretary & Comptrollers Clerk - To the Pages of the Back Stairs & others in lieu of all Bills for Publick Mourning - To the Physician in Ordinary and Extraordinary - To the Seamstres & Laundres - To the Servants of Their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and Prince Frederick - To the Governess and Servants of Their Royal Highnesses the Younger Princes and Princesses and also for several Pensioners is hereafter expressed Viz.</i></p>				
Each Persons Office.	Persons Names.	Total paid each Person.		
		£	s	d
Treasurer & Receiver General	Francis Earl of Guilford in lieu of Poundage on Bills one Year to 10 th October 1779	200.	..	..
Secretary & Comptrollers Clerk	M ^r . Gabriel Mathias one Years Salary to D ^o	100.	..	..
Pages of the Back Stairs etc.	M ^r . Frederick Nicolay & others in lieu of all Bill for Publick Mourning one Year to D ^o	147.	..	..
	M ^r . Cordal Donnell D ^o 3 Quarters & 2 days from 24 th Novr. 1778 to 10 th Octob. 1779 at £21. Penn	18.	6	11.
Pages to Their Roy. High ^{ts} the Younger Princes & Princesses	M ^r . Robert Brann D ^o from 20 th Janry 1779 to 10 th Oct ^r following at £21. Penn	14	18	8.
Physician in Ordinary	Sir John Pringle D ^o one Years Salary to D ^o	200.	..	..
Physician in Extraordinary	D ^r . William Hunter to D ^o	200.	..	..
Seamstres & Laundres	M ^r . Deborah Shetwyn D ^o add ^d Salary to D ^o	50.	..	..
	D ^o further Additional Salary to D ^o	100.	..	..
Dentist	M ^r . Peter Galin to D ^o	50.	..	..
Hair Dresser	M ^r . Lewis Albert to D ^o	150.	..	..
Varroble Maid	Frances Laverocke to D ^o	30.	..	..
Chaiseman	Robert Goodenough to D ^o	30.	..	..
Wet Nurse (late)	M ^r . Margaret Scott to D ^o	200.	..	..
Dry Nurse (late)	M ^r . Catherine Johnston to D ^o	100.	..	..
Rocky (late)	Judith Long to 5 th April 1779	43.	5	..
Dancing Master	M ^r . Philip Denoyer one Year to 10 th Oct ^r 1779	150.	..	..
Governess to Their Royal High ^{ts} the Younger Princes & Princesses	Lady Charlotte Finch to D ^o	600.	..	..
Sub Governess to D ^o	M ^r . Martha Caroline Goldworthy to D ^o	300.	..	..
Assistant in the Education of Their R. H. the Younger Princes & Princesses	M ^r . Mary Hamilton to D ^o	200.	..	..
Writing Master to T. R. H. the Younger Princes & Princesses	M ^r . Peter Roberts to D ^o	100.	..	..
Lecturer to Princess Royal and Princess Augusta	M ^r . Maria Matilca Nevin	100.	..	..
Wet Nurse to D ^o Ernest (late)	M ^r . Louisa Chevelery	200.	..	..
Carried Over		3283.	10.	7.
		23624	19	4

Extract from the Royal Household Accounts 1779.

Gabriel Mathias was employed as a secretary & comptrollers clerk on a salary of £100 per year
(Image source FMP)

Gabriel Mathias

Gabriel married Elfrida, the first-born child of Captain Solomon and Rose in 1813 at Newport Isle of Wight. At 25, she was about two years older than him. Some time ago I copied a summary of his army record from a website on the Mathias family that is no longer online. I have reproduced it here.

He entered the army aged 16 years and 48 days, serving in the Royal Artillery throughout his career. He became second Lieutenant 18th December 1806, First Lieutenant 1st February 1808, Second Captain on half pay from 29th August 1825 and on full pay from 12th December 1826. He retired on permanent half pay 17th March 1836. From October 1808 to June 1811, he served in the West Indies. From August 1815 to September 1821, he was on St Helena. From March 1827 to December 1830, he was again in the West Indies. He was present at the taking of Guadeloupe and Martinique. He was on the Isle of Wight in 1813 and on St Helena 1815 to 1821. His last child was baptised back on the Isle of Wight in 1821, though he may not have been present. According to Vincent Mathias, he retired to Canada in 1836.

He sailed to St Helena on the Northumberland with Napoleon Bonaparte. Anecdotally, he was supposed to have played chess with the former Emperor (quite possible, as contemporary records state that Napoleon was introduced to the officers on board, and was a habitual chess player). Gabriel was one of only two officers to be accompanied by his wife on St Helena throughout Napoleon's captivity. From the Lowe Papers, there is a list drawn up by the highly particular Mme. Bertrand of select residents of St Helena who were permitted to visit her at Longwood; this includes Gabriel and his wife. According to Arnold Chaplin's A St Helena Who's Who, at race meetings on the island in 1817, Gabriel served as Clerk of the Course.

I have written an article about the various family links with the defeat of Napoleon (see Appendix 3).

Edward Coleridge Mathias

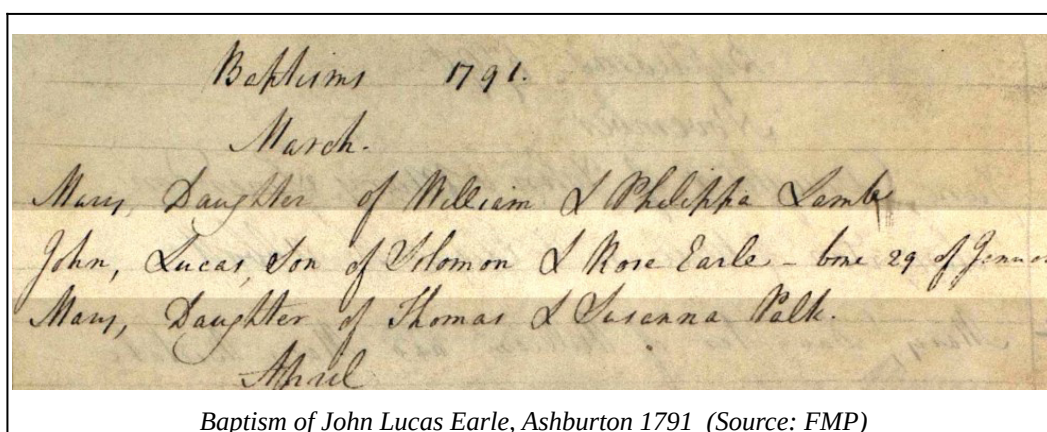
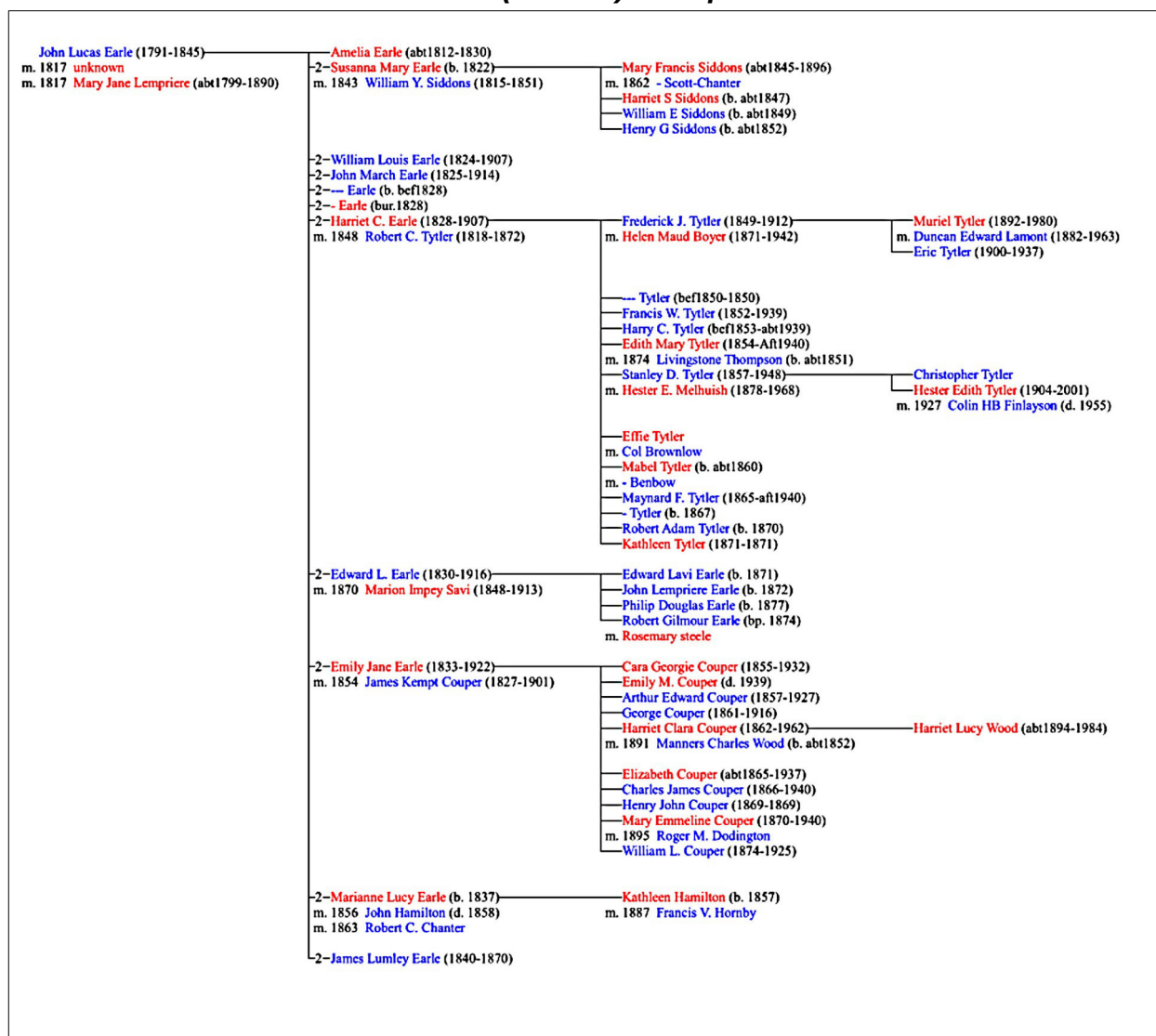
Edward was baptised 16th March 1801, at Thorpe St Andrew Episcopal, Norwich. His middle name is no doubt in honour of his father's fellow officer James Coleridge from Devon.

Edward and Eleanor were married at St Mary's Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight about eight months before her father died. Edward was an Ensign with the 44th Regiment of Foot (not HEIC) and was no doubt based on the Isle of Wight waiting for passage out to India with his Regiment. There is more information on Edward and his children in Chapter 10.

Chapter 6

JOHN LUCAS EARLE & MARY JANE LEMPRIERE

John Lucas was the 2nd child (1st son) of Capt. Solomon Earle and Rose



Baptism of John Lucas Earle, Ashburton 1791 (Source: FMP)

EARLE, John Lucas (1791-1845). Lieut. Colonel, 3rd N.I. b. Ashburton, Devon, 29 Jan. 1791. Cadet 1805. Arrived in India 7 Apr. 1807. Ensign 12 Apr. 1807. Lieut. 15 June 1809. Capt. 5 Mar. 1823. Major 31 Mar 1835. Lt. Col. 24 Dec. 1841 d. Hoshangabad, C.P., 12 Oct 1845.

Son of Solomon Earle, q.v., and Rose his wife. Brother of Solomon Earle, q.v. m. Mary Jane. (She died 18 June 1890) His daus. m. William Young Siddons, q.v., and Robert Christopher Tytler, q.v.

Services : Barasat C.C. for 11½ mos. Posted as Ensign to 8th N.I. Expedn. to Mauritius 1810; Lieut. 2nd Bn. Bengal Vols Nepal War 1814-6 ; Lieut. 1/8th N.I., in 4th Div, Nepal War 1816 ; Lieut. 1/8th N.I., in 2nd Bde., Left Column. Leave u.p.a. to Mauritius 15 Nov. 1816 ; fur. s.c. from Cape 27 June 1817 till 11 Sept. 1819. Fort Adjut, at Asirgarh 22 May 1820 till 1825. Transfd. to 9th N.I. (late 1/8th) May 1824. Actg. Bde. Major in Rohilkhand 1 June 1826. Leave u.p.a. to Tasmania 25th Nov. 1831. To comd. 2nd Recruit Depot Bn. at Fatehgarh 7 Sept 1839. Posted as Lt. Col. to 3rd N.I. 19 Jan. 1842.

Ref. : will dated Husingabad 26 Sept. 1845; proved 14 Jan 1846.

John Lucas Earle Services

Copied extract from 'List of Officers of the Bengal Army, 1758-1834' by VCP Hodson

John Lucas Earle, the eldest son of Solomon and Rose was born four years after their marriage in Ashburton, Devon. He followed in his father's footsteps and applied for a cadetship with the HEIC. John arrived in India in 1807 as a 16 year old cadet. He served in several different regiments and ultimately rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 1841.

Whilst on furlough to England in 1817 he married Mary Jane Lempriere (Earle, 1817). They returned to India at the end of 1819 and he became the Fort Adjutant at Asigarh. Even though Mary was married to John, a Bond was required for her to sail to India. A surety of £200 was jointly placed by Solomon Earle of Kingsland, Middlesex and Thomas Lempriere of Wilson Street, Finsbury Square.

MARRIAGES solemnized in the Parish of *Saint Botolph Aldgate*
in the County of *Middlesex & City of London* in the Year 18*17*

John Lucas Earle of *this* Parish
Aldgate in the County of Surrey & Middlesex
and *Mary Jane Lempriere Simpson* of *this* Parish
a spinster with the consent of Thomas Lempriere her
natural & lawful father of the said Manner
were married in this *Church* by *Licence* with Consent of
this *Sixth* Day of
November in the Year One thousand eight hundred and *seventeen*

By me *A. D. Hall M. A. Curate*

This Marriage was solemnized between us { *J. Lucas*
Mary Jane Lempriere

In the Presence of { *Th. Lempriere* *Th. Lempriere*
James M. M. M. M. *Th. Lempriere*

No. 286.

Marriage 1817 John Lucas Earle & Mary Jane Lempriere, Aldgate, London (Source Ancestry)

Over the next 20 years Mary gave birth to at least nine children. Information about John Lucas and Mary's family life has been deduced from the record of his military service with HEIC and the memoirs left by his daughter Harriet (Sattin, 1986). Harriet was sent to England for her education when she was eleven years old, but she wrote a bit about her life before then. She recalled that when very young, she was left with her uncle and aunt (this must be William Henry Earle and his wife Jane) until her parents returned from Calcutta. Looking at John Lucas' record of service this must actually have been when he went on a trip to Tasmania. No doubt to visit Mary's father and brother (both called Tom) who had migrated to Australia about six years earlier.

Harriet recalled that once they were travelling down the Ganges by boat when they came upon a group of famine stricken Hindus.

Father ordered their boat to move closer to shore to talk with the people. He offered them food but they replied that they would only eat food cooked by a Brahmin. They were too weak to cook for themselves and preferred to die rather than eat the soldiers' food. Later a young man came to the boat and said 'Give me food, I will eat'. Immediately Father ordered for food to be given to the man. The man went to the water's edge offered up a prayer and renounced his faith by removing his thread of cotton from around his neck. He then ate voraciously but was to die within half an hour. Father had not realised that in his weakened state the young man would be unable to digest the food.

All the children were sent home to England for schooling at various ages. John Lucas died in Hussingabad 1845. His will contained little information about the family. It only mentioned his wife Mary Jane.

By 1871, Mary Jane was living in Nether Stowey, Somerset and at the time of the census her grand-daughter, Kathleen M. Hamilton (13 y.o.) was living with her. In the 1881 census Kathleen's mother Marianne (then a widow for the second time) was living with her. Also in

the household was a general servant and a stable boy. Mary Jane died in Nether Stowey on 18 June 1890 (Times 23 June).



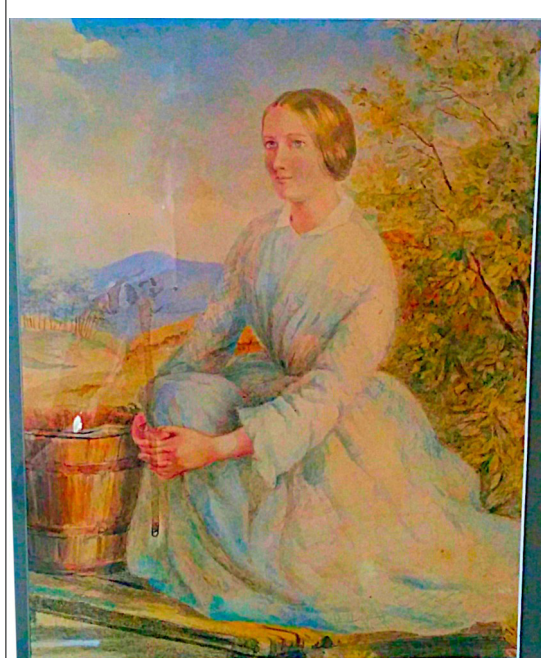
No. 9 Mosque at Meerut. Said to be the principal resort of the mutineers
Photo taken 1858 by Harriet (nee Earle) & Major Robert Tytler Public
Domain:<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=5623955>
John Lucas & Mary Jane's first two children were baptised in Meerut (before the mutiny)

The Lempriere Family

John Lucas' wife was Mary Jane Lempriere.

The Lempriere family lived for many generations in Jersey, Channel Islands. Mary Jane was born in Hamburg, Germany. Mary Jane's father, Thomas, who operated a banking concern in Calais, France was interned by Napoleon's troops for 13 years. One of Mary Jane's brothers, also called Thomas, was briefly interned with his father before being released due to his young age. He was allowed to join his mother and other children in England. When father Thomas was released after the Armistice he joined the rest of the family in England and resumed business as a merchant there. Young Thomas subsequently emigrated to Australia and is mentioned in the Australian Dictionary of Biography ([ADB,1967](#)). The following is extracted from that entry.

In 1822 T. J. Lempriere emigrated to Van Diemen's Land in the Regalia. In Hobart Town on 29 May 1823 he married Charlotte Smith; they had twelve children. He received a grant of land and became a merchant and foundation shareholder of the Bank of Van Diemen's Land. He was joined by his parents and sisters in 1825 when, with his father, he formed a merchant business in Hobart Town trading as Lempriere & Co., which failed in 1827. He left the



Mary Jane Lempriere aged about 18. This was painted in Jersey following the Battle of Waterloo.
Source: S. Charneski

company in 1826 for employment in the Commissariat Department as a storekeeper at the penal settlements on Maria Island and Macquarie Harbour. In 1831 he was transferred to the Commissariat headquarters at Hobart as a clerk. He was promoted deputy assistant commissary general on 20 January 1837 and assistant commissary general in December 1844. On 25 May 1846 he was also appointed a coroner for Tasmania. He was recalled to England in 1849 for immediate transfer as assistant commissary general in Hong Kong. After a brief service there he was invalided home in 1851 but died on the voyage on 6 January 1852. He was buried at Aden.

Lempriere was a regular diarist and gathered his observations of the convict stations at which he served for publication under the title *'The Penal Settlements of Van Diemen's Land'*. This was published in part in the *Tasmanian Journal of Natural Science* during 1842 and 1846 and later issued in full by the Northern Branch of the Royal Society of Tasmania in 1954. His artistic talent was well known and he was commissioned to paint landscapes and the portraits of many prominent settlers. He also maintained a keen interest in natural history and was prominent among the early collectors who provided specimens of Tasmanian animals and plants for study in England.

John Lucas' younger sister, Marianne, also married into the Lempriere family. It is not clear whether she married an older brother of Mary Jane or a cousin. Mary Jane Lempriere is reputed to be one of 14 children born to her father and so he could well be a brother of hers.

Marianne Earle (18 years old) married widower William Lempriere (47 years old) at Newport Hampshire in 1810. William was a military physician of some note and rated an entry in *The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, (OUP 2019). The following is an extract.

Lemprière, William (d. 1834), military physician and writer, was the third son of Thomas Lemprière of Jersey. He entered the Army Medical Service when young and by 1789 was attached to the garrison of Gibraltar. In September 1789 Sidi Mahommed, emperor of Morocco, asked the commandant at Gibraltar to send an English doctor to attend his son, Mawlay Absolom, who was suffering from a cataract. Lemprière accepted the commission, and left Gibraltar on 14 September 1789; on 28 October he reached Taroudannt, where he attended the prince with great success. His only rewards, however, were 'a gold watch, an indifferent horse, and a few hard dollars'. He was then summoned to attend some women of the sultan's harem, and, having reached them on 4 December 1789, was detained in Morocco a long time against his will and was not allowed to leave until 12 February 1790, again with miserable remuneration.

After his return from Morocco Lemprière published an account of his travels in A Tour from Gibraltar to ... Morocco (1791). The work aroused most interest for its description of the sultan's harem. A number of its minor inaccuracies were addressed in a Corrective Supplement to Wm. Lemprière's Tour (1794), by Francisco Sanchez.

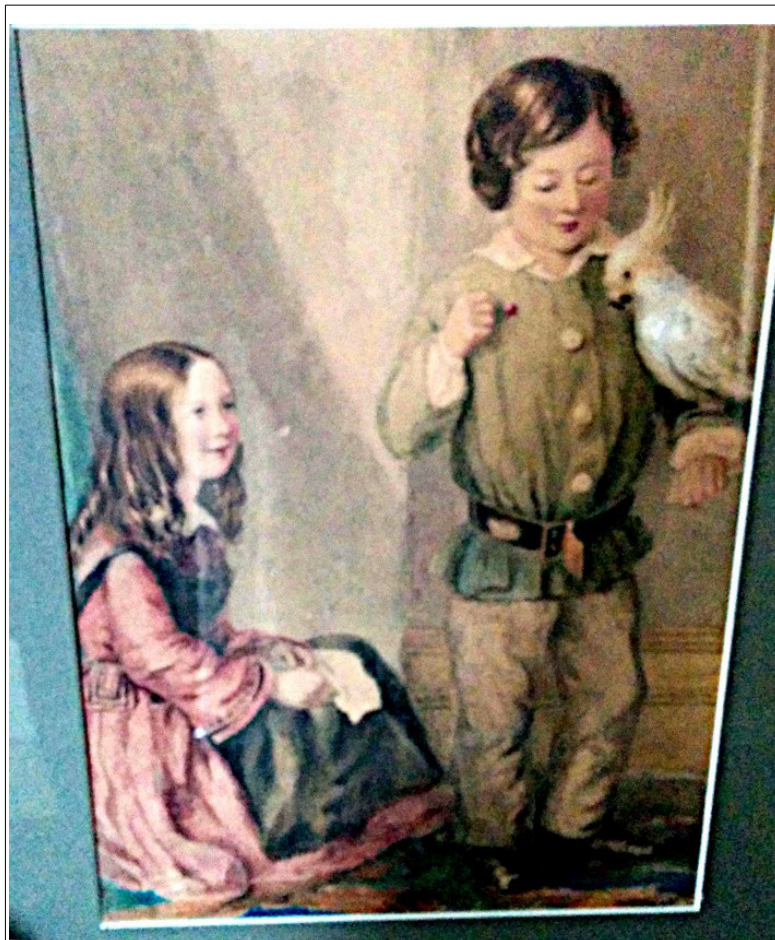
Lemprière was next appointed surgeon to the 20th or Jamaica regiment of light dragoons, about 1790. He spent five years in Jamaica, and on his return to England published Practical Observations on the Diseases of the Army in Jamaica (1799). Lemprière left the army with the rank of deputy inspector-general of hospitals, and lived for many years in the Isle of Wight; there he published A report on the medicinal effects of an aluminous chalybeate water, lately discovered at Sandrocks, in the Isle of Wight (1812), and lectured at the Isle of Wight Philosophical Society. Lemprière died at Bath on 24 July 1834.

Marianne and William did not appear to have any children. I know little more about Marianne and so have not created a separate chapter in her name. A transcription of the

record of her marriage to William is reproduced below. Marianne was living on the Isle of Wight after William's death and received a pension from the army.

William Light & Ann Saunders	...	...	22 May	„
William Lempriere, w., M.D., Physician to				
the Forces, & Marianne Earle, lic.	...		4 June	„
John Follen w. & Jane Follen w.			10 June	

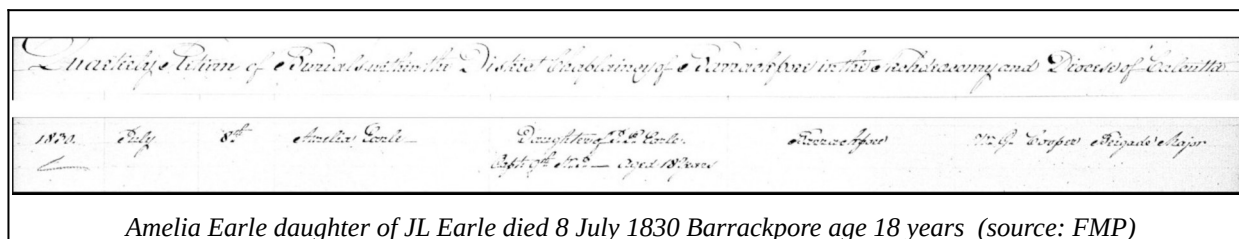
*Marriage of Marianne Earle to William Lempriere 4 June 1810
Phillmore marriage registers Newport, Hampshire vol 14, image 153*



*Thomas and Lucy Lempriere as children. They were younger siblings of Mary Jane. Thomas emigrated to Tasmania in 1822 and three years later was joined by his sisters and parents. In twenty years Thomas had risen to the rank of Assistant Commissary General.
Painting Source S. Charneski*

Child of John Lucas Earle

Amelia Earle



I have been unable to find a baptism extract for Amelia, but I have found a death extract. The handwriting is hard to read, but a comparison to the handwriting on other entries (not shown) confirms that the father's name is Captain JL Earle of the 9th Native Infantry. This is compatible with his service record shown on a previous page. Amelia would have been born around 1812 when John was stationed in Mauritius. It is also interesting that John went to Mauritius in 1816 (recorded in his services as an urgent personal affair) prior to proceeding to the Cape and then on to furlough in England for four years. I suspect that John Lucas fathered a child with an Indian lady during his time in Mauritius and he went there to collect her on his way home to England. This was just like his father did when he left for England. It is not surprising that Amelia is not mentioned in Harriet Tytlers memoirs (q.v.) as she would have been just two years old when Amelia died.

Children of John Lucas Earle and Mary Jane

Susanna Mary Earle

1st child of John Lucas & Mary Jane

Susanna was born in India in 1922 and baptised in Meerut two years later at the same time as her newborn brother William. According to her sister Harriet's memoirs she was sent to England for her education along with two brothers (probably William and John March). The next information about her was her marriage in 1843 in Mussourie, India to William Young Siddons.

Several members of the Siddons family had enlisted with the HEIC. Williams father, George, was part of the East India Company Civil Force and when William was born he was based at Fort Marlborough, Sumatra, Indonesia. William had been sent back to England for his education and in 1831 he was accepted into Addiscombe, the Military academy then established by HEIC to train its officers. At the time of his marriage he was a Lieutenant. He does not seem to have been in active service but worked as an Interpreter, Quartermaster and administrative support to more senior staff.

William's grandmother was Welsh actress Sarah Siddons.



Actress Sarah Siddons By Thomas Gainsborough - Public Domain,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=151220>

Susanna and William had four children that I know of. Their oldest child, Mary, was educated in Germany and became a well known actress in both Britain and USA. She married a Mr Scott-Chanter a British naval officer (Wikipedia, 2019).



William Louis Earle

2nd child of John Lucas & Mary Jane

Baptised at the same time As Susanna, William was sent to England and is believed to have attended Mr Beasley's school in Uxbridge, now part of West London. It is not known what his occupation was. He never married and showed up first in the English census return for 1871. Then he was a lodger, 46 years old, in a house in London and his occupation was 'Income from Annuities'. By the 1891 census he had moved into a house in Addison Gardens, Hammersmith. His brother John (q.v.) was listed as the head of the household (a retired General) and they also had a housekeeper living in. Ten years later, they were in the same house but with two domestic servants.

William died in the first quarter of 1907.

John March Earle

3rd child of John Lucas & Mary Jane

Promotions : Ensign, 9 Dec. 42 Lieut., 18 Dec. 43 Captain, 23 Nov. 56 Services : Captain Earle served during the Sutlej Campaign, '45, '46. Present at the actions of Moodkee, Ferozeshuhur, Buddiwal, and Alliwal. Medal and Clasp.

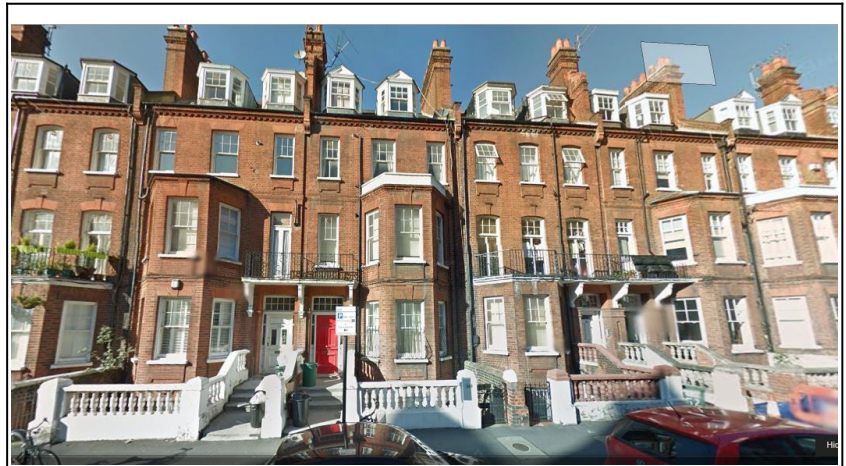
Notes from Who was Who : Entered army, 1842; General, 1894; retired list, 1887; served Sutlej Campaign, 1845-46 (medal with two clasps). Address: 33 Addison Gardens, W. Died 22 Nov. 1914.

John March Earle, Services

Extract from War Services of all the Officers of HM's Bengal Army by TC Anderson 1863.

John was born and baptised in Bareilly, India. Like his brother, he was also sent to Mr Beasley's school in Uxbridge. After school he was enrolled in Addiscombe College. At the time of Harriet's return to India (1845?) John March was serving in the 24th Native Infantry. His service record shows that he was on the retired list in 1887, but he was shown on the 1881 census as a lodger living in Brighton. His occupation was given as Colonel, Indian Army so it seems that he got a promotion to General whilst on furlough and before retirement. The 1891 and 1901 censuses show that he was living with his brother William in Addison Gardens, West Kensington, London.

The 1911 census showed that John March's house had 12 rooms and he was living in the house with three servants. John died 22 Nov. 1914. In his will he left £500 to his domestic servant and £300 to a past servant the rest of his estate (total value £12,400) was divided into four parts. One part each went to his brother, Edward Lempriere Earle, and sisters Emily Jane Couper and Marianne Lucy Chanter. The remaining part was to be divided between the surviving children of his sister Susan Mary Siddons namely Henry George Impey Siddons and Harriet Sophia Siddons.



*Home of Edward and John, Addison Gardens, West Kensington
(Google maps street view, 2015)*

Harriet Earle

6th child of John Lucas Earle and Mary Jane



A small portrait of Harriet as a little girl. Sheila wondered if it was commissioned just prior to Harriet being sent to England for schooling when she was 11 years old. She suspects that the velvet surround to the painting may have been worn bare by constant handling by her mother Mary Jane (née Lempriere) when Harriet was away.

Photo source: S. Charneski

Much of the information here about Harriet has been gleaned from her memoirs (Sattin, 1986). Harriet was the fourth daughter of John Lucas Earle (two older girls died in infancy). She was born in Secrora, Oudh, India in 1828 when her father was an Acting Brigade Major. When Harriet was 11 years old she was sent to England with a younger sister and brother (Emily and Edward) to complete their education. They lived with their aunt Emily Ranie (née Earle, see chapter 12). Harriet was returning to India six years later when a letter reached her in Aden advising her of her father's sudden death. Her meeting with her mother and younger brothers and sisters in India was short lived. Her mother was to return to England with the younger children but Harriet needed to remain in India and travel to the north-west to stay with her aunt Susannah and uncle, Major Bird (see chapter 9). Her older brother John March was also serving with the same regiment there. Although Harriet wanted to return to England with her mother it was explained to her that she would only receive a pension (due to her father's death) while she remained in India and that was very important. Two years later (and

after several offers of marriage according to her memoirs) Harriet married Robert Tytler. Major Bird was a witness of the marriage.

TYTLER, Robert Christopher (1818-1872). Bt. Colonel 38th N.I. b. Allahabad 25 Sep 1818. cadet 1834. Arrived in India 2 Feb 1835. Ensign (13 Dec 1834) 16 Feb 1835. Liet. 25 Sept 1837. Capt. 26 Feb 1846. Major 16 May 1858. Lt. Col. 7 Jan 1862. Bt. Col. 18 Feb 1866 d. Simla 10 Sept 1872. *bapt.* Cawnpore 1 Feb 1819. 2nd son of Robert Tytler M.D. Bengal medical Est. and Elizabeth his wife, dau. Of Count Schneeberg. His sister m John Macdonald (1807-1872), *q.v.* *m.* 1st Meerut 21 Jan. 1843 Isabella eldest dau. Of Dr. Francis Neilson, of Glasgow. (She died landour, U.P. 6 Jan 1847 aged 21) *m.* 2nd, Lucknow 2 Mar. 1848 Harriet Christina 2nd dau. Of John Lucas Earle *q.v.* (See also William Young Siddons) (She died Simla 24 Nov. 1907) Ed. Edin. Univ.
Services: d.d 34th N.I. 11 Mar 1835 posted to 38th N.I. 24 Sept 1835. First Afghan War 1840-2; Kalat Nov. 1840; operation against the Ghilzais May 1841; operations in vicinity of kandahar; relief of kalat i-Ghilzai; Goaine; Ghazni; re-occupation of kabul; Lieut. 38th N.I., with Nott's force (medal). Acting Intr & Qmt. 2nd N.I. 3 Aug 1842 till Dec. 1844. Gwalior campaign; Maharajpur; Lieut. 38th N.I., with 2nd N.I. (Bronze Star). Fur. Oct. 1852 till 16 Dec 1854, Was present with 38th N.I. when it mutinied at Delhi 11 May 1857, but succeeded in escaping to Karnal. Mutiny campaign; siege and capture of Delhi; in charge of mily. Treasure chest of Delhi F.F. (Medal with clasp). Fur. May 1860 till Nov 1861. Offg. Supt. Of Port Blair, Andaman Is., Apr. 1862 till Feb. 1864.
Refs.: Misc. Gen. Et Her, 58. ii. 251. De Rhé-Philipe. I.M. 20 Jul. 1860, p.551. N & Q 48 ix. 393 M.I. in new cemetery, Simla.

Robert Christopher Tytler, Services

Copied extract from List of the officers of the Bengal Army, 1758-1834 by V.C.P. Hodson

Robert's father, also named Robert Tytler, was born in India 1787 and served as a medical doctor in the Bengal medical service for thirty years until his death in 1838. His mother was the daughter of a German, Count Schneeberg.

Robert joined the Bengal army in 1834 as a Cadet while still in England following his schooling there. He arrived in India in 1835, accompanied by his father who returned to duty from furlough in England. Robert joined his father's 34th Native Bengal Infantry at Midnapur, By the end of his military career he had risen to the rank of Colonel. Harriet was his second wife. His first wife had died aged 21 leaving him to care for two infant children.

At the beginning of the Mutiny in 1857 Robert and Harriet were stationed in Delhi with two young children and Harriet was heavily pregnant with their fifth. Robert played a conspicuous part in the bloody siege of Delhi and Harriet recounts much of it in her memoirs. In May 1858 Robert (promoted to Major) and his family went on six months' leave after proceeding to Calcutta to close the treasure chest accounts. The treasure chest accounts dealt with the distribution of prize money and loot captured during battles. From May 1860 until November 1861 Robert and Harriet went on furlough to England. In the auction of the Delhi prizes of war Robert had bought the gold crown of Bahadur Shah (which was set with diamonds, emeralds, rubies and pearls) as well as several other treasures. A Bond Street jeweller offered him £1,000 for the crown, but he decided to offer it to the Queen first. Through intermediaries, he was told that the most the Queen would pay was £500 which he reluctantly accepted on being promised a fine appointment on return to India by the Secretary of State for India. He also then offered some richly decorated throne chairs which were subsequently sent to the palace. After some time without hearing a response, Robert inquired as to the status. He was advised that Her Majesty was under the impression that they were included in the original price. Robert felt he had been unjustly dealt with but afraid of prejudicing the promised appointment in India let the matter drop.



The Bahadur Shah's Crown purchased from the Treasure Chest and sold to Queen Victoria for £500 (Sattin, 1986)

On return to India he was promoted to Colonel and appointed officiating Superintendent of the Convict Settlement at Port Blair in the Andaman Islands. After a few years they returned to India where he was put in charge of the Jakhu museum at Simla until his death in 1872. In addition to his military achievements Robert was a keen amateur naturalist, and several species of frogs lizards and birds are named for him (suffix Tytleri).

Harriet founded an orphanage and school in Simla India but is now best known for her memoirs. In them she recounted her early life and her time accompanying Robert during the siege of Delhi. When their son was born during the siege she named him Stanley Delhi-Force Tytler. An article about Harriet that appeared in the UK Sunday Times in 2007 is reproduced in Appendix 4.

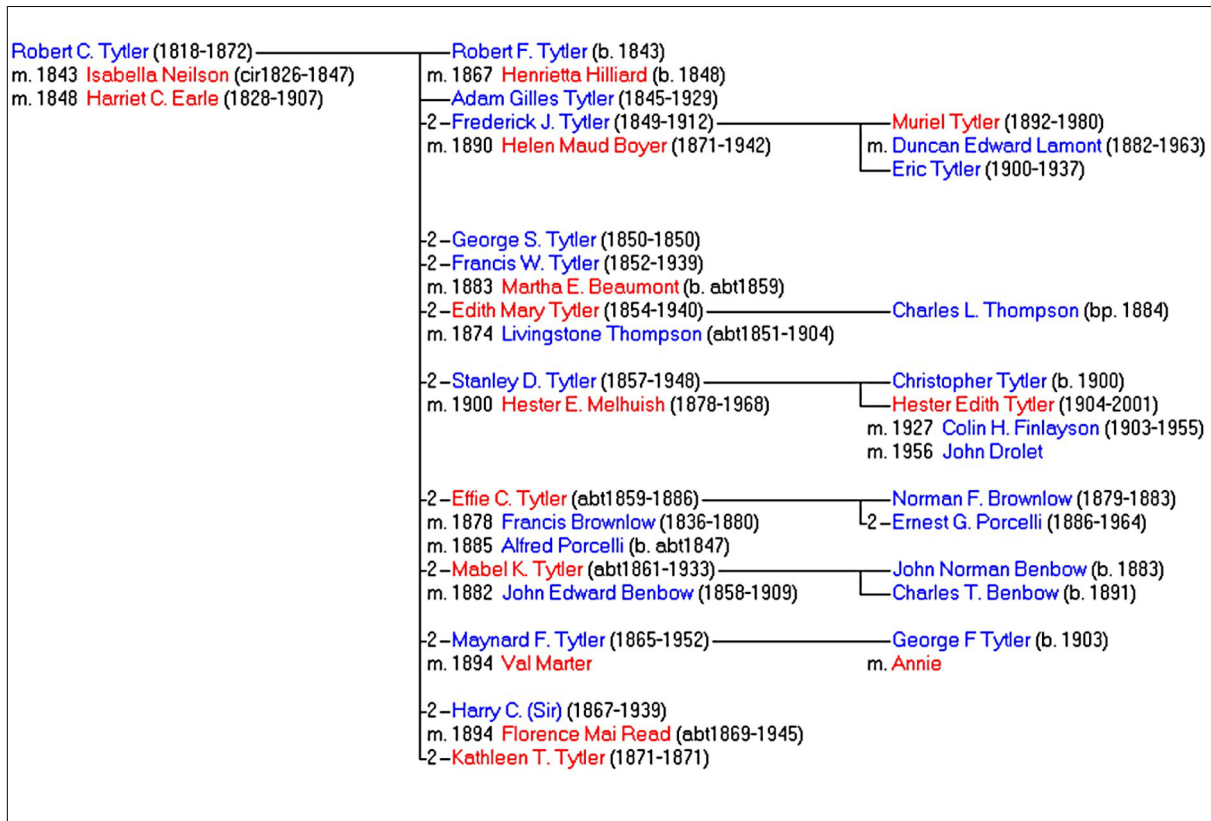
Her hobby, photography, was the new skill of the time and after the uprising of 1857 she and Robert toured North India taking photographs of the

aftermath. Many of these photographs are now in the possession of the British Library and the National Gallery of Canada. Some are viewable online.



Harriet and Robert Tytler
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:HarrietRobertTytler-2.jpg>

Children of Harriet and Robert



Robert had two boys by his first wife Isabella and Harriet presented him with ten more during the 24 years of their marriage.

Robert Francis Christopher Alexander Tytler

1st son of Robert and his first wife Isabella

Robert was born in Agra and sent of to school in Aberdeen, Scotland. In 1860 he successfully applied for a cadetship in the Royal East Indian Army. Seven years later he was a Lieutenant in the 36th N.I. when he married Henrietta Maria Hilliard the nineteen year old daughter of an army surgeon.

Adam Gilles Tytler

2nd son of Robert & his 1st wife Isabella

Adam was born in Hupowlie which is now part of Kolkata. I haven't found out much about Adam but he probably was sent to England for his education. He returned and worked in some capacity in India before retiring in England. He died in 1929 in Kensington, London. The probate mentions money in India as well as in England. His estate was left to his half-brother Francis and John Francis Ratford, a solicitor. There is no record of him ever having married.

Frederick John Lucas Tytler

1st child of Harriet and Robert

Frederick was born in Lucknow. In his adult life he was a civil engineer. He immigrated to Canada in 1888 and 2 years later married Helen Maud Boyer in Harriston, Ontario, Canada. Frederick was 41 and Helen 18 years old. Frederick and Helen had two children, Muriel and Eric. Muriel married Duncan Lamont. It seems that Eric remained single. Frederick died in his 63rd year in Vancouver, British Columbia.

George Snowberg Tytler

2nd child of Harriet and Robert

George died less than one week after his birth in Barrackpore, India.

Francis William Tytler

3rd child of Harriet and Robert

Francis was first baptised in Dacca three weeks after his birth and then again about six weeks later in the old cathedral in Calcutta. When he married Martha Emily Beaumont in Agra he was recorded as being the superintendant of the Post Office at Moradabad. Four years later he was in the same position residing in Gorukpur. He must have had some side interests as that year he lodged two patents for methods for processing Indigo. He retired to England and died in Battle, Sussex in 1939.

PATENTS.—Specifications of the undermentioned inventions have been filed:—Francis William Tytler, Superintendent of Post Offices, residing at Gorukpur, for the production of green indigo direct from the indigo plant, called "Tytler's Green indigo process." Francis William Tytler, Superintendent of Post Offices, residing at Gorukpur, for increasing the quantitative production of indigo blue from the indigo plant as now grown of India, called "Tytler's process of Blue indigo manipulation."

Francis Tytler patent applications
Notice in *The Civil & Military Gazette* 24 Oct. 1887

Edith Mary Gillies Tytler

4th child of Harriet and Robert

Edith was born and baptised in London in 1854 when Robert was still on Furlough. At the end of that year the family returned to India. In Harriet's memoirs she mentions that when they were in Mussoorie in 1855, Edith was taken very ill and they were concerned that she would not survive. Towards the end of the monsoon, when the company had to move down to Delhi, she started to get better. Six months later the mutiny began and she managed to survive the dramas of that event with her mother and brother (the other two children were away at school).

When Edith was 20 years old she married Irishman, Lieutenant Livingston Thompson, of the 11th Hussars in Simla. By 1881 the couple were living in London and with them was Edith's widowed sister Effie and her young son Norman. The four of them were looked after by a butler, a ladies maid and a nurse. Livingston's profession was recorded as 'late Captain'. The family later immigrated to Vancouver, Canada. In 1904 Livingston was working as a surveyor when he died aboard a ship whilst returning from a job site elsewhere in the state. He is buried in Ross Bay cemetery, Victoria, British Columbia. Edith eventually returned to England and died in 1840 whilst residing in Dover, Kent.



Edith Thompson née Tytler
Photo: S. Charneski

Stanley Delhi-Force Tytler

5th child of Harriet & Robert

Stanley was born in the back of a bullock cart in a military encampment on a ridge overlooking Delhi. It was on the morning of 21 June 1857 under heavy cannonading during the Mutiny. Robert and his troops were trying to hold Delhi under siege. Other women and children had been evacuated but Harriet, in her condition, refused to travel on the back of an elephant and was given permission by the General to remain in the camp. Stanley was born with dysentery and was not expected to live. He was christened with the middle name Delhi-Force to commemorate the arrival of supporting troops shortly after his



Edith with her brother Stanley
Photo: S. Charneski

birth. Harriet describes the birth and the difficulties she had making clothes and getting bedding for her other two children as well as the baby in her memoirs, all the while being under shellfire. Delhi was eventually recaptured about six months later.

Stanley was sent off to England for his education when old enough like his older siblings . He returned to India and joined the British Army serving in India and Natal, South Africa. Stanley later travelled to Hong Kong and Australia. He went to Canada in 1894 to meet up with his mother, who was visiting his sister Edith. He then met and married Hester Melhuish, a girl from Chilliwack, British Columbia. He worked in technical and administrative roles for mining companies for a short while before settling in the Vancouver district where he worked as an agent for a life assurance company. Stanley had a keen interest in art and made a name for himself a prominent local artist. He was a founding member of the British Columbia Society of Fine Arts. Stanley died in his 91st year. I have reproduced an interesting memoir that Stanley wrote about an event in his younger years on the next page.

Stanley and Hester had two children Christopher Delhi-Force Tytler (b.1900) and Hester Edith Delhi-Force Tytler (b.1904). Christopher enlisted with the Canadian expeditionary force one week after his 18th birthday. On his papers he put his occupation as a clerk. I have found no further information about him. Hester married Colin Herbert Bain Finlayson in 1927. Colin was born in Lismore, NSW, Australia and went to Canada as an infant. In 1924 Colin won a Silver Medal at the Paris Olympics representing Canada in the coxless four rowing team. He worked most of his life as an engineer. He was inducted into the British Columbia Sports Hall of Fame in 1977 with his silver medal-winning crew. Hester and Colin had four children.



Stanley Delhi Force Tytler at home in his 80's photo:S. Charneski



Colin Finlayson 1924

(<https://www.olympedia.org/athletes/80466>)

I was born at the ~~outbreak of the~~ Indian Mutiny, in 1857, and when about 10 years old, was living at Simla.

Now many years before that some 600 Persian nobles, headed by the then Aga Khan, fled from Persia to India and offered their services to the Honourable East India Company, but for some reason this was refused. My father and the Aga, who was the grandfather of the present Aga, had become friends and I have been told that in some way my father had saved the Aga's life.

It had been decided, as was then the custom, to send us children home to England for our education and my mother was going to take us. Well, we started for Bombay, but in those days there were no railways - only a short line from Bombay - so we travelled in bullock carts - a slow and long journey, as you can imagine, lasting for several ~~days~~ ^{weeks}. When we reached Bombay, the steamer had left and we were stranded. In those days steamers only went once a month. My father called on the Aga Sahib, who at once placed a house, servants and carriages at our disposal. In due course, we all went to the Aga Sahib's house. My mother and sisters went to the women's rooms, my father telling me to stay with him, but I can remember the Aga saying "he is only a boy" so I went also and can remember being stuffed with sweets. I also recollect, whenever one of the Princes came in, all the women, except his wife, covered their faces.

In the courtyard, there were two baby elephants, on one of which I had a ride. These elephants were going to be sent to Persia as a present to the Shah, and I remember my father asking Aga Sahib "why do you not go to Persia yourself" and the old man laughingly replied "Col. Sahib, I would rather they cut off the heads of those elephants than mine" !

When the time for the next steamer's departure came, we went to say goodbye and express our thanks for the many courtesies extended to us. We were starting to go down the stairs when one

of the Princes asked us to wait and his father hobbled out to the head of the stairs (he was lame from a fall from his horse) and lifting up his hands, he blessed us. Before that he had given me a single barreled pistol, used by me later with which to shoot sparrows. We then said goodbye to father, who went back to Simla by mail cart.

Some 8 or 9 years later, I had gone back to India to see my father, who was then dying and, after his death, I was going back to Edinburgh. My mother asked me to call and tell the Aga Sahib of father's death. I called and was told by the sentries that the Aga Sahib would not see me. I told them to send word that Col. Tytler's son was there, and two of the Princes ran out and took me in. When I told the Aga Sahib that my father had died, he burst into tears, and that is my last recollection of a very fine personality.

Stanley Delhi-Force Tytler

3006, 6th Street,
New Westminster,
B.C.

A memoir by Stanley Delhi-Force Tytler about an event in India
Source: S Charneski

Effie Constance Tytler

6th child of Harriet and Robert

Effie is not mentioned in Harriet's memoirs. She married Irishman, Lieutenant Colonel Francis Brownlow of the 72nd Highlanders in 1878 when she was 19 years old and living in Simla. Francis was serving with the British troops and had previously been awarded a medal and clasp for his services in the Crimea. He was about 22 years older than Effie. They had one child, Norman, born in London in October 1879. Francis died in September the following year whilst commanding his troops in Kandahar, Afghanistan. In April 1881 Effie and her one-year old son, Norman, were living with her sister Edith and her husband in Knightsbridge, London. Norman died in 1883 in London when he was about 3½ years old. It is not known how soon after his death that Effie returned to India but in August 1885 she was back in Simla and married bachelor Alfred Porcelli, a Captain with the Royal Engineers. Alfred is believed to have been born in Palermo Italy. He was the son of Baron Alfred Porcelli who married a Scottish lady. Young Alfred became a naturalised British subject and joined the military. Together they had one son, Ernest George Macdonald Porcelli, born in Murree (now in Pakistan) in 1886. Effie died just one month after the birth of Ernest due to puerperal fever. Effie was 27 years old. Ernest survived, joined the British Army and rose to the rank of Major in the African division of the British army. He married in London in 1927 and died in Florence Italy in 1964. He had inherited the family title of Baron.

Mabel Christina Tytler

7th child of Harriet and Robert

Mabel was born in Bex, Switzerland (according to Harriet's memoirs) but she was baptised in 1861 in Nether Stowey, Somerset prior to their returning to India. The next information about Mabel was that she returned to England with her mother when word got back to India that her brothers Frank and Stanley were quite ill. Returning to India she married Lieutenant John Edward Benbow in Simla in 1882. She was 20 years old. They had two children, John Norman Benbow and Charles Tytler Benbow. John senior died suddenly in London in January 1909. His obituary and funeral were printed in the Middlesex & Buckinghamshire Advertiser (Jan. 9, 1909). John rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel spending the first 11 years of his military career in India. Among the mourners were many members of the families mentioned in this book including Tytler, Bird, Couper and Chanter. John March Earle sent flowers.

Harriet gave her memoirs to Mabel and the manuscript passed down the family before being acquired by Gerald Sattin the father of Anthony Sattin who collated and published them in 1986.

Maynard Fitzroy Tytler

8th child of Harriet and Robert

Maynard was baptised in Umballa in 1865 according to the extract at the British library, however, it seems that Maynard always wrote his birth year as 1866. In 1881 Maynard can be found as a 15-year old scholar boarding with other boys in Clifton, Bristol. Presumably he went to Mr Frank Townsend's school in Clifton as did his younger brother, Harry. In 1920 he appears in the US census as a mining Engineer in Warm Springs Idaho. In the 1930 census he was recorded as 65, divorced and living on his farm in Braidablik Washington State with his son George (27 y.o.) daughter in-law, Annie (25 y.o.) and grandson Warren Tytler (1 y.o.). In the 1950 census he was living with his son's family in Kitsap, Washington. Maynard died in 1952.

Harry Christopher Tytler (Major General, Sir)

9th child of Harriet and Robert

Harry was born in Dollar, Clackmannanshire, Scotland in 1867. After schooling at Mr Townsend's school, Clifton he went to Sandhurst Military College. In 1886 he joined the Manchester regiment as a cadet. The following year he transferred to the India Army. In 1894 he married Florence Mai Read in Surbiton Surrey. At that time he was a Lieutenant in the 11th Bengal Infantry. Over the next 25 years he rose through the ranks serving in India, Persia and Afghanistan and East Africa. His speciality was in running and maintaining lines of communication. He was mentioned in dispatches at least six times. His most senior awards were:

Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath (1927);

Companion of the order of St Michael and St. George (1920)

Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire (1920)

Harry and Florence had no children. He died aged 71 in Ross on Wye, Herefordshire in 1939.

More information (with references) about Harry can be found in https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Tytler (accessed February 2024).

Kathleen Tytler

10th child of Harriet and Robert

Harriet's last child and their fourth daughter, Kathleen, was born in January 1871 in Simla. No baptism extract has been found for her but on her burial extract it is stated that she died of extreme weakness after two months and six days.



Photograph of a Mosque in Delhi taken by Harriet after 1857. The carriage in front was her father's. Source: British Library online photo #53/27 Tytler collection of photographs

Edward Lempriere Earle

7th child of John Lucas & Mary Jane

Edward was baptised in Neemuch in 1830. He went to Mr Beasley's school in Uxbridge like his brothers. In the notes of Harriet's memoirs it is mentioned that he was wounded on 11th September (1857?) and at that time was 1st Lieutenant in the Bengal Artillery. Harriet also mentioned that he retired as a Colonel of the Artillery. After the mutiny of 1857 all HEIC troops were incorporated into the British Army and so he would then be with the Royal Artillery and this is born out by the information he later provided when filling out English census forms. In 1877 he is listed as working as a superintending engineer of the irrigation branch of the Public Works Department in Lahore.

He married Marion Impey Savi in Murree in 1870. The couple had at least four children. In 1901 the census shows them both visiting another retired Indian army couple and their daughter that lived in Croydon, Surrey. In 1911 Edward was 80 years old and Marion 63. They were living in a 12 roomed house in Clayton Hurst, Surrey with one servant. Marion died in 1913 and Edward in 1916.



Edward Lempriere Earle 1862© The British Library Board photo 797/62 Glover collection

Emily Jane Earle

8th child of John Lucas & Mary Jane

Emily was born in Agra in 1833. She married James Kempt Couper when she was 21 years old in Ghazipur. James was born in 1827 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. He was a son of First Baronet Colonel Sir George Couper. On his application for cadetship in the Bengal army it was stated that a character reference was given by HRH the Duke of Kent for whom his father was Equerry at the time. James eventually rose to the rank of General in the Indian Staff Corps. Emily gave birth to nine children that lived to maturity over the next twenty years. Of the four boys at least two joined the military. James died 1901 (A general reference for the Couper family is www.thepeerage.com/p27814.htm).

THE LATE GENERAL JAS. K. COUPER.
General Jas. Kempt Couper, of No. 11, The Crescent, Surbiton, formerly of Combe, Dalverton, Somerset, and late of the Bengal Staff Corps, who died on the 14th May last, aged 73 years, son of the late Sir George Couper, Bart., appointed as executors of his will, which bears date 2nd March, 1895, with a codicil of 18th July, 1898, Colonel Edward Lempriere Earle and the testator's widow, Mrs Emily Jane Couper, daughter of Col. Earle, and the late General Couper, bequeathed to his wife his household effects, plate, pictures, and jewellery, and he left his residuary estate in trust to pay the income thereof to her during her widowhood, and, subject to Mrs Couper's interest, the residuary estate is left in trust as to £300, for his daughter, Mrs Roger Marriott Dodington; as to £2,000, in trust for his daughter, Harriet Clara, wife of Major Manners Wood, and her children; as to £10,000, in trust for the testator's unmarried daughters, and on the death of the survivor of his unmarried daughters, the sum of £10,000 is left in equal shares for the testator's sons, to whom also the late General Couper left the ultimate residue of his property. The testator bequeathed his one-third share of a sum of £5,304 India three per cent. stock, subject to his sister-in-law, Mrs Ramsak Couper's, life interest therein, in trust to pay the income thereof to his wife during her life, and, subject to her life interest, in trust for his sons living at her death. The late General Couper's estate has been valued at £22,612 19s 8d gross, including personality of the net value of £22,440 1s 1d.

Summary of the will of James Couper Published in The Western Daily press 15 June 1901 Source FMP)

Emily was mentioned in her brother John's will (1914) as being a widow living at 1 Porchester Square, London. Harriet refers to Emily in her memoirs as '...now Mrs Comfrey' which is incompatible with other written documentation.

Emily Jane Earle (1833-1922)	Cara Georgie Couper (1855-1932)
m. 1854 James Kempt Couper (1827-1901)	Emily M. Couper (d. 1939)
	Arthur Edward Couper (1857-1927)
	George Couper (1861-1916)
	Harriet Clara Couper (1862-1962)
	m. 1891 Manners Charles Wood (b. abt1852)
	Harriet Lucy Wood (abt1894-1984)
	Elizabeth Couper (abt1865-1937)
	Charles James Couper (1866-1940)
	Henry John Couper (1869-1869)
	Mary Emmeline Couper (1870-1940)
	m. 1895 Roger M. Dodington
	William L. Couper (1874-1925)

Marianne Lucy Earle

9th child of John Lucas & Mary Jane

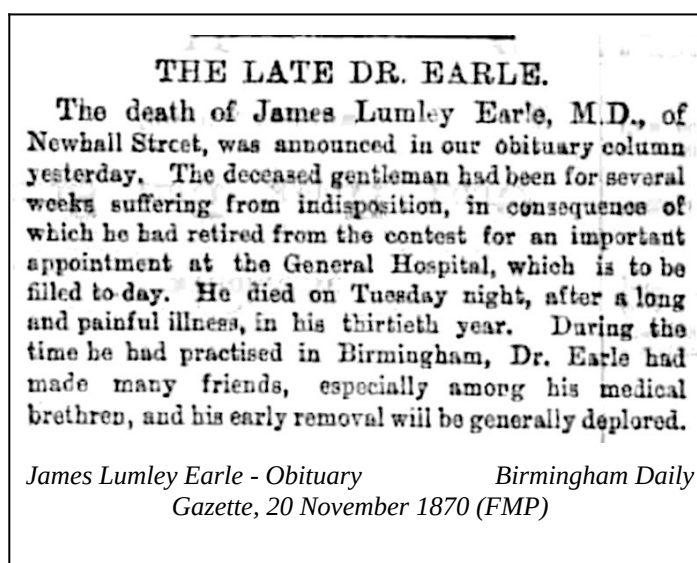
Born in Barrackpore in 1837 she married John Hamilton in Dinapore when 19 years old (1856). No doubt shortly after she returned to India from schooling in England. John was a Civil Engineer with the railways. John died less than two years later of fever whilst working in Benares where he was buried. They had one daughter Kathleen who was baptised in Calcutta six months before her father died.

Marianne was in Somerset, England by 1863 and married Farmer Robert Campbell Chanter who was four years her junior (a relative of her niece, Mary Siddons', husband?). In the 1871 census Marianne and Robert were living in London and Robert's occupation was stated as 'retired farmer'. Kathleen was 13 years old and living with her grandmother, Mary Jane, in Nether Stowey back in Somerset. In the 1881 census Marianne was widowed and living with her mother in Nether Stowey. In 1887 Kathleen married Francis Villiers Hornby a barrister working in London.

James Lumley Earle

10th child of John Lucas & Mary Jane

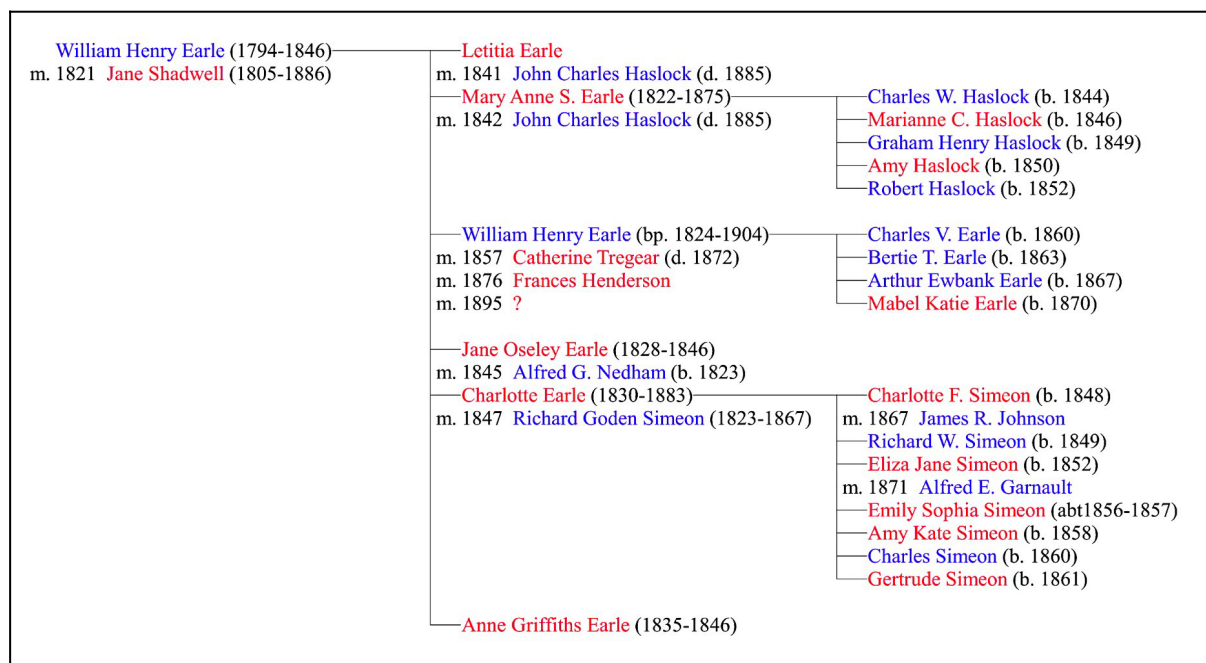
James was born in Benares, 1840. After school in England he studied medicine and was admitted to the College of Surgeons in 1861. He had practised in Birmingham but died when he was just 30 years old.



Chapter 7

WILLIAM HENRY EARLE & JANE SHADWELL

William Henry Earle was the 2nd son of Capt. Solomon Earle and Rose



EARLE, William Henry (1794-1846). Bt. Lt. Colonel, 39th N.I. b. Ashburton, Devon, 27 Jan. 1794. Cadet 1808. Arrived in India 30 July 1809. Ensign 21 Nov. 1809. Lieut. 16 Dec. 1814. Capt. 13 May 1825. Major 18 Mar. 1845. Bt. Lt. Col. 30 Apr. 1844. d. Berhampore 18 Nov. 1846.

Son of Solomon Earle, q.v., and Rose his wife. Brother of John Lucas Earle, q.v. m. Meerut, 12 Feb. 1821, Jane, dau. of John Augustus Shadwell, q.v. His dau. m. John Charles Haslock, q.v.

Services : Barasat C.C. for 10 mos. Posted as Ensign to 19th N.I. Nepal War 1814-5 ; Lieut. 1/19th N.I., 3rd Coy. Pioneers 1st Div. Served with Pioneers for the next ten years. Nepal war_ 1816. Siege and capture of Hathras 1817. Third Mahratta War Mandala (Land. Gaz. 7 Dec. 1818). Operations in Jodhpur 1823; Lamba. First Burma War 1824-5. Adj. Pioneers 12 June 1823 till 28 Sept. 1825. Transfd. to 39th N.I. (late 2/19th) May 1824 D.A.A.G. to troops for service in Merwara 5 Aug. 1838 till 14 Oct. 1839. Bde. Major at Karnal 5 May 1841 till 14 Apr. 1842. With Army of Reserve (for Afghanistan) Oct. 1842 till Jan. 1843. Gwalior campaign ; Paniar (s.w.); Bt. Major 39th N.I. (Bronze star) | (Lond. Gaz. 8 Mar. 1844.) Refs.: AJ. Xii. 290.

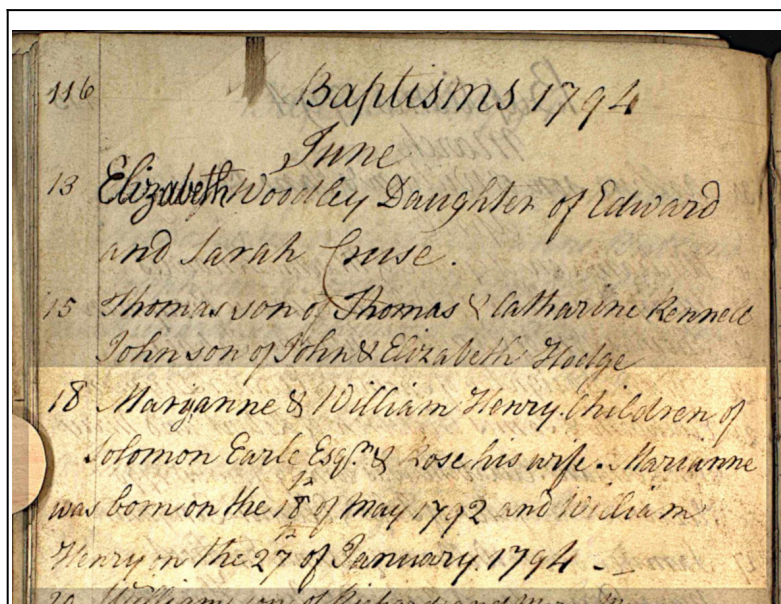
William Henry Earle Services

Copied extract from 'List of Officer of the Bengal Army 1758-1834' by VCP Hodson

William Henry was the second son of Solomon and Rose and was born whilst they were living in Ashburton. He was baptised at the same time as his older sister Marianne. He went out to India as a cadet with the HEIC in 1809. William married Jane Shadwell in Meerut in 1821. He rose to the rank of Brevet Lieutenant Colonel before retirement and two years before his death in Berhampore, India in 1846.

Jane's father, John Augustus Shadwell, had also served with the East India Company's army but was invalided out as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1826. He died in Barrackpore in 1830. It is thought that Jane's mother was Jane Humphries, the daughter of a Conductor working in the army stores and her mother was a native Indian.

William and Jane had six children.



Baptism of Marianne & William Henry Earle Ashburton, Devon 1794 (Source FMP)

Letitia and Marianne Shadwell Earle

1st and 2nd children of William Earle & Jane

Letitia married John Charles Haslock in 1841. He married her sister Marianne Shadwell (written as Mary Anne on her baptism record) within six months so presumably Letitia died although no record of her death has been found (Haslock 1842). Both marriages took place in Karnal. It is interesting that John was recorded as being a bachelor on the marriage to Marianne. John was a Lieutenant with the 29th NI and rose to the rank

EARLE		1.
♂	Letitia m. Karnal 16 July 1841, Col. John Charles HASLOCK, 65th B.N.I.	
	Susan m. Meerut 3 Sept. 1840, Lt. Gen. Louis Saunders BIRD, 23rd B.N.I.	
	(3)	
♂	Charlotte m. 11 Oct. 1847, Lt. Col. Richard Goden SIMEON, 4th E.L.C. (B. 1839)	
♀	Jane m. 21 May 1845, Lt. Col. Alfred Gyllett NETHAM, 1st BNI. (B. 41)	
♂	Marianne Shadwell m. Col. John Charles HASLOCK, (m. Karnal 1 Jan. 1842) 65th BNI.	

Marriage of Letitia and Marianne to John Charles Haslock Source; British Library Index Card (no other record found for Letitia)

Marriages solemnized at Kurnaul.										
When Married.	Names of Parties		Age	Condition	Rank or Profession	Residence at the time of Marriage	Father's Name & Rank	By Whom solemnized	Names of Witnesses present	By whom Married
	Christian	Surname								
1842 Jan. 1 st	John Charles	Haslock.		Bachelor	Lieut. 29. Regt. N. I.	Kurnaul.		Lieut.	W. H. Earle Major 29. N. I. J. Grey. Lieut. 29. N. I.	Theodore Dunken Chaplain
	M. Shadwell	Earle.		Spinster.	Do. Do.					

Marriage extract for the marriage of Marianne Shadwell Earle to John Haslock (Source: FMP)

Marriage extract for the marriage of Marianne Shadwell Earle to John Haslock (Source: FMP)

of Colonel before retirement in 1857. He died in Crewkerne Somerset in 1885. Marianne died

HASLOCK, John Charles (1809-1885). Colonel. 65th N.I. b. London 7 May 1809. Cadet 1825. Arrived in India 7 July 1826. Ensign 15 Mar. 1826. Lieut. 9 Sept. 1832. Capt. 15 Aug. 1845. Major 21 Feb. 1850. Lt. Col. 4 June 1855. Retired 21 Aug. 1857. Hon. Col. 21 Aug. 1857. d. Crewkerne, Somerset, 25 June 1885. Son of Samuel Haslock, of Long Acre, London, silversmith, m. 1st, Karnal, 16 July 1841, Letitia, eldest dau. of William Henry Earle, q.v. m. 2nd, Marianne Shadwell. (She died 1 Dec. 1875, aged 52.) Services : Ensign d.d. 36th N.I. 2 Aug. 1826. Posted to 39th N.I. 26 Sept. 1826. Actg. Adjt. 39th N.I. 21 Nov. 1835, and 28 Aug. 1837. Operations against the Bhils 1837 ; Lieut. 39th N.I. Adjt. 39th N.I. 17 Dec. 1837 till 16 Oct. 1845. With Army of Reserve (for Afghanistan) Oct. 1842 till Jan. 1843. Postmaster at Nowgong 3 May 1843. Gwalior campaign; Paniar; Bt. Capt. 39th N.I (Bronze star). Posted as Lt. Col to 65th N.I. Fur. s.c. 22 Jan. 1855 till retirement. Refs. : The Times, 29 June 1885.

John Charles Haslock Services

Copied extract from 'List of Officers of the Bengal Army 1758-1834' by VCP Hodson

in 1875.

Marianne and John had at least five children: Charles William (b. 1844), Marianne Caroline (b. 1846), Graham Henry (b. 1849), Amy (b. 1850) and Robert (b. 1852).

Jane Oseley Earle

3rd daughter of William Henry Earle & Jane

Jane married Alfred Gyllett Nedham at Nowagong in 1845. Alfred was 22 years old and a Lieutenant with the 74th NI. Jane was 17 years old. In the first edition of the book I had misinterpreted the marriage extract shown below. Now that I have done some further research I am satisfied that Jane was a daughter of William and Jane and Alfred Gyllett Nedham was born in Clifton, Gloucestershire in 1823. Jane died just 18 months after her marriage in Mhow. Alfred married a second time in 1853 to Jessie Rebecca Campbell.

Certificate of the Rite of Marriage performed at the Military Station of Nowagong -									
year	Month	Day	Signatures with the Profession and residence of the Parties.	Age if under 21. or Minor.	Signatures of Parents or next Friends and Residence.	Signatures of persons Present.	whether By Banns or Licence.	where solemnized.	Signatures by whom solemnized.
1845	May	21	Alfred G. Nedham, Lieut 74. Regt N.I. Nowagong. Jane Oseley Earle	22 y. 17 y.	W. H. Earle, Lieut 60th Regt N.I. Nowagong. Jane Earle, Nowagong.	J. C. Haslock, Lt. F. B. Doyle, Lt.	Licence	Station of Nowagong.	F. Duckley, Lieut Colonel Commanding the Station of Nowagong.
<p>Witnesses. W. F. Wallace, Lt. 74. Regt N.I. F. B. Doyle, Lieut 39. Regt N.I.</p> <p>Ed. L. L.</p>									

Marriage Alfred Needham and Jane Osely Earle, Nowagong 1845 (SourceFMP)

William Henry Shadwell Earle

Son of William Henry Earle & Jane

William joined the Bengal Native infantry as an Officer. By the time of his marriage to Catherine Ewbank Tregear at Meerut in October 1857 he was a Lieutenant. Meerut was one of the sites of the outbreak of the mutiny of troops in May of that year before spreading to Delhi.

After the quelling of the uprising by 1858 the British Government dissolved the East India Company and took over rule of India from London. The Company's armies and administrative systems were reorganised and a new era of the British Raj began in India. By this time William had been promoted to Captain and he transferred from 20th Regt N I, Boolundshuhur to become a Commandant in the District police (Bombay Times, 28th April 1858). William and Catherine had four children that I know of: Charles Vincent Burdar Earle (b. 1860), Bertie Templeton Earle (b. 1863), Arthur Ewbank Earle (b. 1867) and Mabel Katie Earle (b. 1870)

CAPTAIN W. H. S. EARLE, P. C., late 20th Native Infantry.

Ensign, 17 Feb. 43—Lieut., 31 Dec. 47—Captain, 23 Nov. 56.

SERVICE.—Captain EARLE served in the Punjab Campaign, '48, '49. Present at the actions of Chillianwallah and Goojerat. *Medal and 2 Clasps.* At the fight in the Booree Pass, under Brigadier Boileau, November '58. Operations against the Bussy Khel Afreedies, under Lieutenant-Colonel Craigie, C.B., March '55. Served during the Mutinies, '57, '58, in the Meerut and Boolundshuhur Districts. *Medal.*

William Henry Shadwell Earle

Source: 'Ubique War Services of Officers of the Bengal Army' by TC Anderson published 1863

Charlotte Earle

5th child of William Henry Earle & Jane.

Charlotte married Richard Goden Simeon in Allahabad in 1847. On the marriage extract it was noted that she was a minor (13 or 14 years old). Richard was a 23 year old Lieutenant with the 10th NI Cavalry regiment. His father was a Captain in the Royal Navy. Charlotte and Richard went on to have seven children before Richard died of Cholera in Srinigar in 1867.

Anne Griffiths Earle

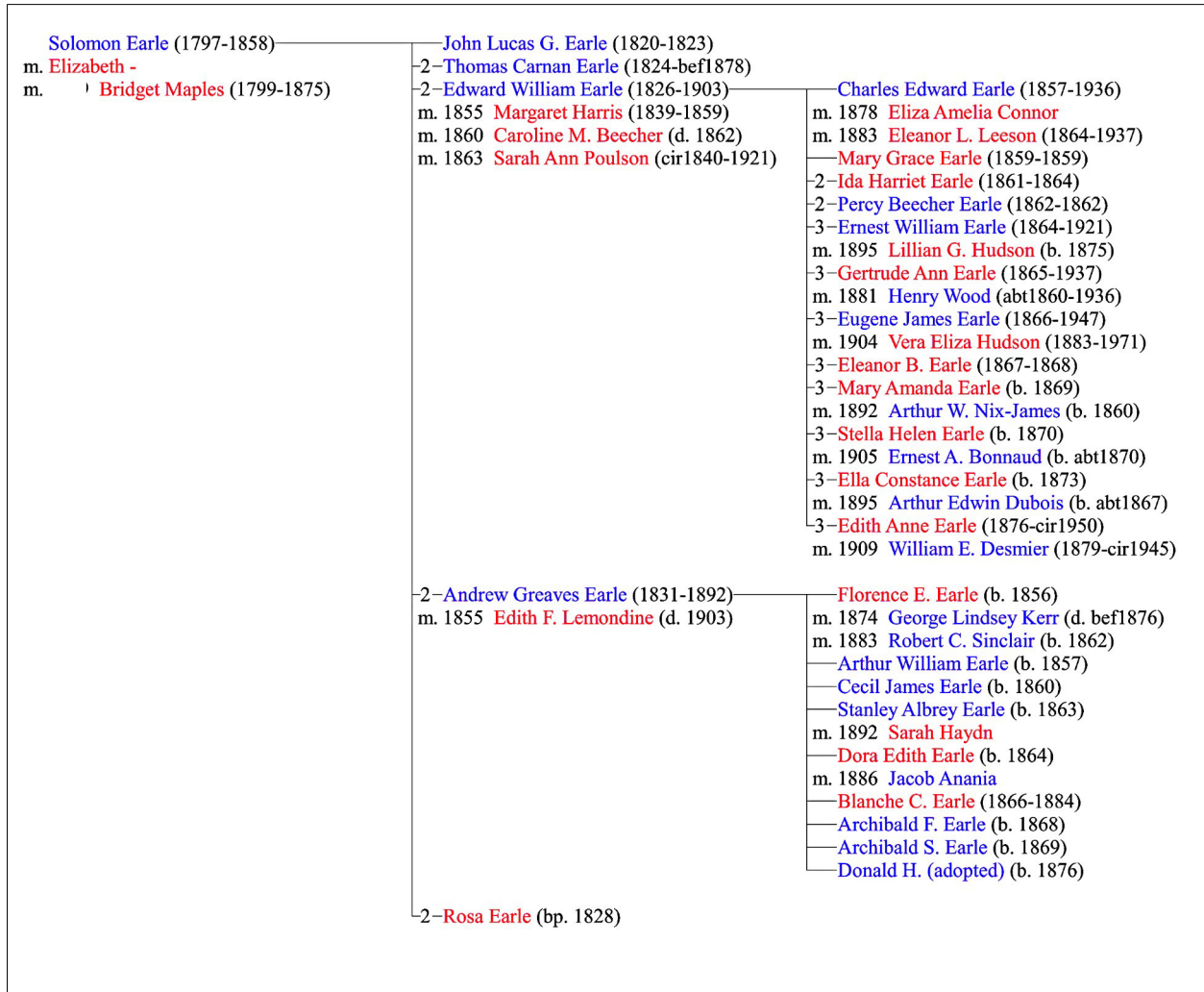
6th child of William Henry Earle & Jane

Anne was born in Delhi in 1835 and baptised two years later at Neemuch when her father was a Captain with the 39th NI regiment.

Chapter 8

SOLOMON EARLE & BRIDGET MAPLES

Lieut. Solomon Earle was the 3rd son of Capt. Solomon Earle and Rose



EARLE, Solomon (1797-1858). Lieutenant, Invalid Est. 43rd N.I. b. London 26 Jan. 1797. Cadet 1818. Ensign 11 May 1819. Lieut. 8 Jan. 1820. Invalided 11 Apr. 1828. d. Intally, Calcutta, 6 June 1858. Son of Solomon Earle, q.v., and Rose his wife. Brother of William Henry Earle, q.v.

Services : Lieut. 2nd Bn. L.I., King's German Legion, 11 Oct. 1813, with which Corps he is said to have served at the battle of Waterloo. Ensign d.d. 30th N.I. 1819. Posted as Lieut. to 2/22nd N.I. m 1820. Fur. 6 Feb. 1821 till 1822. Transfd. to 44th N.I. (late 2/22nd) May 1824; to 43rd N.I. in 1825. Re/8. : I.M. 27 July 1858, p. 625.

Addenda in vol II Earle, Solomon (1797-1858)

p 117 l 23 add: m. Trincomalee, Ceylon 12 July 1819, Bridget dau. John Maples of Newark
 line 25 delete "is said to have". line 26 add after "Waterloo" (Waterloo Medal)

Lieutenant Solomon Earle Services Copied extracts from 'List of Officers of the Bengal Army 1785-1834' by VCP Hodson

Lieutenant Solomon Earle was the third and youngest son of Captain Solomon Earle. He was born in 1797 in Paragon, Southwark, Surrey and baptised at the church of St George the Martyr. Paragon has been described as a crescent of fine Georgian houses that were largely demolished in the late 19th century to make way for a school. Records indicate that his father, Captain Earle was renting the property from another EIC Officer.

In 1804 the family was living on the Isle of Wight as Solomon senior was then re-appointed by the HEIC as Captain and Adjutant at the Depot there. Young Solomon spent most of his youth on the Isle of Wight whilst his father was with the East India Company's training depot. He attended Abbe De Grenthe's private school at Newport, Isle of Wight.

Like his father and two older brothers before him, Solomon applied for a cadetship with the HEIC. In his application for cadetship in 1812, in response to the question 'Of what nature has your education been?' he responded with 'French, Drawing and Arithmetick'. Solomon did not take up this 1812 posting. Instead, later that year he joined the 2nd Battalion of the Kings German Legion (KGL). The KGL was a regiment largely formed from Hanoverian refugees in England fleeing from French occupation of their homeland at the start of the 19th century. George III was also the Elector of Hanover. By 1813 the Legion also included many English-born troops, and it was considered to be part of the British army. All orders were given in English. The Legion was based at several locations in the south of England.

Solomon's Battalion, the 2nd Light Infantry, together with the 1st Light and 5th Line Battalions are remembered for their action in the Battle of La Haye Sainte, a post which they defended until they ran out of ammunition. In the account of the battle it is written that of 360 men in the Legion there were only 39 survivors. The Legion was dissolved after Napoleon was defeated. In the regimental history Solomon is listed as having been at the battle as a Lieutenant (Google Books, 1837). He was awarded the British Waterloo Medal. After disbandment from the KGL he again applied to the HEIC for a cadetship. This time under education he said he had been in the Kings' service and for the last 2 years and served under his Grace the Duke of Wellington.

Upon acceptance by the HEIC in 1818 Solomon sailed for India. He was appointed initially as a Cadet and promoted to Ensign on 11 May 1819 whilst serving with the 30th Native Infantry (NI). On 8th January 1820 he was posted as a Lieutenant to the 2/22nd NI which was later renamed the 44th NI. In 1825 he was transferred to the 43rd NI.

AT the ACADEMY of Monsieur L'ABBE DE GRENTHE, Quay-street, Newport, Isle of Wight, YOUNG GENTLEMEN are boarded and educated, or educated only, in all the various branches of polite and useful Literature.

EMULATION, JUSTICE, RECOMPENCE.

Monsieur L'Abbe de Grenthe, Master of Arts in the University of Paris, and author of several works published in that Capital, returns his sincere thanks to the Nobility, Gentry, and Inhabitants of the Isle of Wight and Vicinity, for their protection during the space of thirteen years, and more particularly since his undertaking a Boarding School, wherein are taught, by able English Masters, different Branches of Education, conformable to his *new plan* of teaching the French Language, which has met with such success in his Pupils, and satisfaction in their friends.

TERMS PER QUARTER.		l. s. d.	
Board (tea allowed without extra charge) and instruction, including English, Latin, Greek taught grammatically, Writing, Arithmetic, Merchants' Accounts, and Mathematics	5	10	0
Half Board	3	8	0
Day Scholar	1	1	0
Entrance for a Boarder, 1l. 1s.; for French, Drawing, Dancing, or Geography	0	10	6
A French School every other day for young Ladies, from nine to eleven in the morning	1	1	0
Ditto for young Gentlemen, from six to eight in the evening	1	1	0
Private lesson at his own house, an hour every other day, holidays excepted, 1l. 11s. 6d.; out of it	2	2	0
Geography, and the Use of the Globes, taught every other morning, from nine till ten o'clock	0	10	6
Drawing taught every other day, from twelve to one o'clock, by Mr. Griffith, from London	1	1	0
Dancing ditto	1	1	0
Writing and Arithmetic, by private lessons, three times a week, ditto	1	11	6

No master is to attend more than twenty pupils, that he may thereby be able to do them that justice which would be impracticable to an unlimited number, and to cause them to be what their specimens of writing, drawing, arithmetic, &c. bespeak them.

THE HOURS OF THE SCHOOL ARE,
In the morning, from six in the Summer, and from half past six in the Winter till eight, and from nine till twelve; in the afternoon, from two till five, and from six till eight, Wednesdays and Saturdays excepted.

N. B. In the Winter, the doors are to be shut at half past nine, and in Summer at ten o'clock in the evening.

HOLIDAYS,
Wednesdays and Saturdays, in the afternoon; and a few of the most indispensable, such as the King's Birth-day, &c.—At Midsummer, from the 16th of June to the 20th of July: At Christmas, from the 16th of December till the 20th of January; at Easter, from Good Friday till the following Wednesday; and three days at Whitsuntide. Nevertheless, for the accommodation of the public, the Academy will remain open during the Midsummer and Christmas vacations, on the following terms for each:—A Boarder, 2l. 2s.—a Day Boarder, 1l. 4s.—and a Day Scholar, 10s. 6d.

The public may be assured, that Mr. L'Abbe de Grenthe will employ the best means to excite emulation in his young pupils, by public and private exercises, where application and success will be duly rewarded; and to familiarize them to those principles of morality and good behaviour, which so essentially promote the happiness of social life.

N. B. Mr. L'Abbe De Grenthe does not mean to compel any Day Scholar to attend at the above-mentioned hours, should their friends not approve of it.

[189]

B. G. L.

Advertisement for Abbé de Grenthe's school
Source Salisbury & Winchester Journal 12 Jan 1807



*Sketch of an Officer of the Kings German Legion
2nd Battalion
Source: Geschichte der Königlich Deutschen
Legion 1803—1816, Erster Band, Hannover und
Leipzig 1907*



*Lieutenant Solomon Earle's Waterloo Medal
(engraved with his name on the edge)*

Solomon seems to have been married twice. His first wife was Elizabeth was named on the baptism of his first child, John Lucas Gordon Earle, who died when 3 years old in 1823 and was buried in the Kamptee Cemetery. He married his second wife, Bridget (née Maples) in Trincomallee, Ceylon (Sri

Lanka). An addendum to his service record suggests that they married in 1819 but this conflicts with the birth of his first child with Elizabeth. Solomon and Bridget had at least four children between 1824 and 1828. He was invalided out of active service on 11 April 1828, family rumour is that he had lost an arm. He remained in India for the rest of his life living in



Commemorative stamp issued in UK 2015

Calcutta until he died in 1858. In the 1856 New Calcutta Directory his address is given as North Road, Intally, a suburb of Calcutta near the Lower Circular Road. He had been receiving half pay from the 2nd Battalion Light Infantry of the Kings German Legion up to 31 December 1831 when he received a commuted allowance in exchange for cancellation of that pay. In 1815 a Lieutenants pay in the King's German Legion was 6s 6d per day. No doubt Solomon also collected a pension from the HEIC up to his death as he is recorded as being on the European Invalid Establishment on his tombstone. His will shows that he left a sum of 12,000 Rupees to his wife Bridget.

Solomon was buried in the Lower Circular Rd cemetery, Calcutta. Also buried in the grave plot are his wife Bridget (d. 1875), son Thomas (d. 1878), son Edward William (d. 1903), Edward's wife Sarah (née Poulson, d. 1921) and Edward and Sarah's daughter Edith Anne (d. 1947. The tablet on the grave records her maiden name Earle).

It is strange that on Solomon's tomb his rank was engraved 'Capt.' when in fact his rank was definitely Lieutenant. It would seem that there was some confusion regarding his rank amongst family members, likely confusing him with his father. A later photo of the grave clearly shows some modification was undertaken on the stone at some time with respect to his rank.



A photo of Lieutenant Solomon Earle's tombstone taken by me in 2007.



*The grave of Lieutenant Solomon Earle, his wife Bridget and son Thomas
Another son Edward William and his wife Sarah were added later as was their daughter Edith Anne (Desmier)
Lower Circular Road Cemetery, Calcutta*

The Maples Family

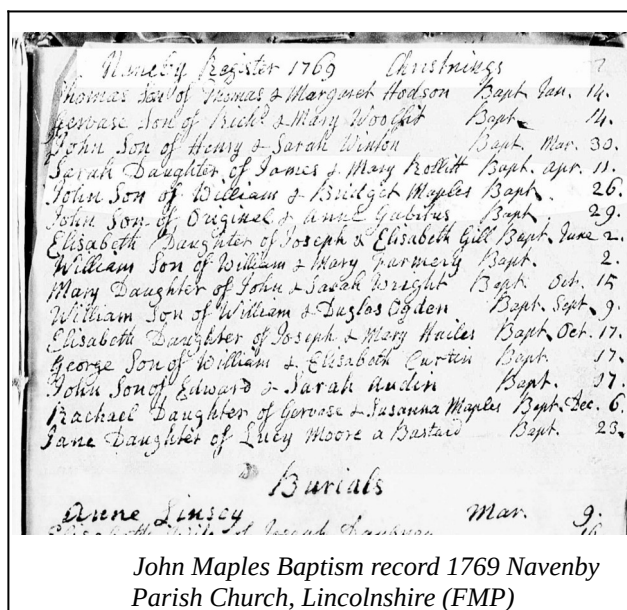
Bridget Maples was the 2nd wife of Lieutenant Solomon Earle

Cornelius Maples m. 1752 Ann (bur.1763)	William Maples (bp. 1747-bur. 1818) m. 1768 Bridget Bean	John Maples (1769-1847) m. 1794 Ann Walker m. 1798 Mary Rogers (abt1776-1802) m. 1803 Elizabeth Williams (d. 1809) m. 1810 Millicent Lacey (bp. 1785-1816) m. 1823 Mary Lacey (b. abt1783)	Alexander Maples (1795-1795) -2- Bridget Maples (1799-1875) m. Solomon Earle (1797-1858) -2- Mary Maples (1801-1801) -2- John Maples (1802-1802) -3- Jane Anne Maples (1804-1819) -3- William Maples (1805-1805) -4- James Lacey Maples (b. 1810) m. 1836 Anne Catherine Ward -4- John Maples (1812-1813) -4- Thomas C. Maples (1813-1814) -4- Nathaniel Maples (1815-1816)
		Cornelius Maples (bp. 1771-1772) Thomas Maples (bp. 1773-bur. 1803)	

Bridget's father was John Maples. Bridget married Lieutenant Solomon Earle in Trincomalee, Ceylon according to family informtion. Much of the information regarding names and dates of birth, death and marriage were provided to me on a photocopy of a sheet of paper drawn up by grandson, Ernest William Earle (d. 1921). I have managed to verify most of the information. What has not been verified eg. events in Ireland, do, however, correspond to the location of the 45th Regiment at the time of the event.

John Maples was born in Navenby, Lincolnshire in 1769 (Maples, 1769). All that is known is that his father and grandfather also came from Navenby. John, aged 25, married his first wife Ann in 1794. They must have married shortly before they both sailed for Martinique in the West Indies as John was an Officer in the 45th Regiment of Foot. The record of services of Officers of the Regiment have been published. This shows that John was a Quartermaster in 1804 and an Ensign and Adjutant ten years later. A Quartermaster is an Officer who has usually been commissioned from the ranks and is responsible for looking after stores and supplies to the troops. An Adjutant is a more senior administrative role assisting the Commanding Officer.

The 45th Regiment was raised in Nottinghamshire and had been sent to Martinique about 8 years previously to take the Island from the French as part of the Wars against Napoleon. Ann died in Martinique the following year as did their infant son Alexander. The Regimental history states that Yellow Fever took a far greater toll on the troops than did the enemy. Perhaps this was the cause of death for Ann and Alexander or maybe it was complications in or following childbirth.



John Maples Baptism record 1769 Navenby Parish Church, Lincolnshire (FMP)

MAPS, **John: Quartermaster, 45th, 1.11.1804: Ensign,**
6.6.1814: Adj. same date: Lieut. 23.1.1817:
Lieut. 2nd Life Guards, 25.9.1823: Retired, 2.10.1823.
Served with the 45th in the Peninsular War.

Services of John Maples in the 45th Regiment of Foot
Source 'Record of Services of the Officers of the 1st & 2nd Battallions of the Sherwood Foresters'
HC Wylly, (1931)

The Regiment moved to the neighbouring island of Dominica and there, in August 1798, John married Mary Rogers. The following year Bridget, my 2x great-grandmother, was born. A couple of years later and the Regiment had moved back to England briefly. It was in Horsham, Sussex that Mary had a daughter, Mary, named after her. Unfortunately, she died in infancy.

It was not long after this that the troops were sent to Ireland. Presumably the posting was associated with unrest due to the abolition of the Parliament of Ireland and the creation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain & Ireland. There Mary gave birth to a son, John, in September of 1802 but sadly Mary died in December of that year. She was buried in the St Multose Churchyard in Kinsale, County Cork.

John was quick to marry his third wife Elizabeth Williams in Cork, March 1803, but his son John died the following month. Elizabeth gave birth to two children, Jane Anne in Limerick, Ireland in March 1803 and William in June 1805 when they were living back in Nottingham. William only lived for about four weeks but Jane Anne survived childhood. John's third wife Elizabeth died in September 1809 in Nottingham. John was then left with two young girls to look after.

Six months later John was at the altar again, this time in Lenton, Nottinghamshire to marry local girl Millicent Lacey. Over the next five years Millicent gave birth to four boys: James, John, Thomas Cornelius, and Nathaniel. All the boys but James died in infancy. The first three boys were born in Lenton, but Nathaniel was born and died in Ireland. The regiment spent time in South America as well as being involved heavily in the Peninsular war in Portugal and Spain against Napoleon's troops and his service record shows that he was present.

John's fourth wife, Millicent died in 1816 in Nottingham, just 31 years old. By this time John was 47. In 1819 the 45th Regiment was posted to Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). Bridget (20 years old), Jane Anne (16 years old) and James (nine years old) accompanied him. Family records indicate that Jane Anne died in May 1819 in Capetown, South Africa. Presumably she was taken sick on route to Ceylon. Bridget married my 2x great-grandfather, Lieutenant Solomon Earle in Ceylon. John and his troops spent the next four years in Ceylon.

John's Regiment spent time in India and Burma before returning to England in 1837 but John returned earlier in 1823. His record of services show that he was transferred to the 2nd Life Guards for one week. This was probably the procedure necessary for him to return to England before the rest of the Regiment thus allowing him to retire in England. That same year he married Mary, the sister of his fourth wife, Millicent, in the Church of St Paul in the Bail, Lincoln. They had 15 years together before Mary died in 1838. James seems to have returned to England with his father and married in 1936 in Lincoln.

John worked as Assistant Overseer and Collector of Rates for the Parish until his retirement in 1843. He died four years later. His retirement was announced in the local

1751.07.01	45th Regiment of Foot	
1756	French North America	
1763	Newfoundland	
1765	Ireland	
1775.07	Massachusetts: Boston	
1775	American revolution	
1778?	remnants drafted to other regiments and officers sent home to re-form	
1778	England	
1784	Ireland	
1786	West Indies	
1794	England	
1795	West Indies	
1801	England	
1802	Ireland	
1803	Ireland	
1804.08.01	1st Battalion, 45th Regiment of Foot redesignated upon formation of 2nd Battalion	
1806	South America	
1807	Ireland	
1808	Peninsular war	
1814	France	
1814	Ireland	
1814	45th Regiment of Foot redesignated upon disbandment of 2nd Battalion	
1819	Ceylon	
1825	India	
1825	Burma	
1826	Burma	
1832	India	
1837	England	

Summary of the movements of the 45th Regiment of Foot(source: Archived website "Regiments.org")

newspaper. The obituary mentioned his service for the 45th Regiment as a Lieutenant and Adjutant and his work with the Parish for many years.

NO. 25. ' 1 ' 0.

John Maples Overseer of *his* Parish

and *Mary Lacey* of *the* Parish

of *Lenton in the County of Nottingham*

were married in this *Church* by *Dr. S. S. S.* with Consent of

this *twenty fourth* Day of

June in the Year One thousand eight hundred and *twenty three*

By me *William. Hall* Minister

This Marriage was solemnized between us { *J. Maples*

In the Presence of { *Mary Lacey*

No. 29. *Thos. Maples*

Mark of Repose. Maples

John Maples, marriage to his 5th wife Mary 1823 (FMP)

Mr. LENTON.—A gratifying mark of respect has been paid by the parish of Lenton, to their much respected servant, Mr. John Maples, on his retirement from the offices of assistant overseer and collector of the parish rates. It was proposed, at a recent vestry meeting, that a subscription to raise him a purse should be entered into, which by the aid of a committee was carried out; and on Thursday evening the gentlemen of the committee waited on Mr. Maples, and presented him with the sum collected, forty pounds; at the same time expressing to him their sincere regard, and thanking him for the great zeal he had ever manifested in discharging the onerous duties committed to his management for so many years.

Notice of John Maples' retirement
Nottinghamshire Review & General Advertiser 28 April
1843

factorer, Bond-street, Sention.

At New Lenton, on the 10th instant, universally esteemed, Mr. John Maples, aged 78, many years assistant overseer, &c., of the parish of Lenton, and formerly Lieutenant and Adjutant in the 45th Regiment of Foot.

John Maples Obituary
Nottinghamshire Review & General Advertiser 14 May 1847

John Lucas Gordon Earle

Child of Lieut. Solomon Earle & his first wife Elizabeth

John was baptised at Fort William (Calcutta) in 1820. Elizabeth was the name of his mother according to the Baptism entry. The only other information on John is from the inscription on his tombstone at Kamptee which reads:

JLG Earle infant son of Lieutenant S Earle 22nd regiment NI who departed this life on 8th June 1823 aged 2 years and 11 months. (British Empire & Commonwealth Cemetery Inscriptions, Empire & Commonwealth Museum London, information collected by Susan Farrington).

Thomas Carnan Cowslade Earle

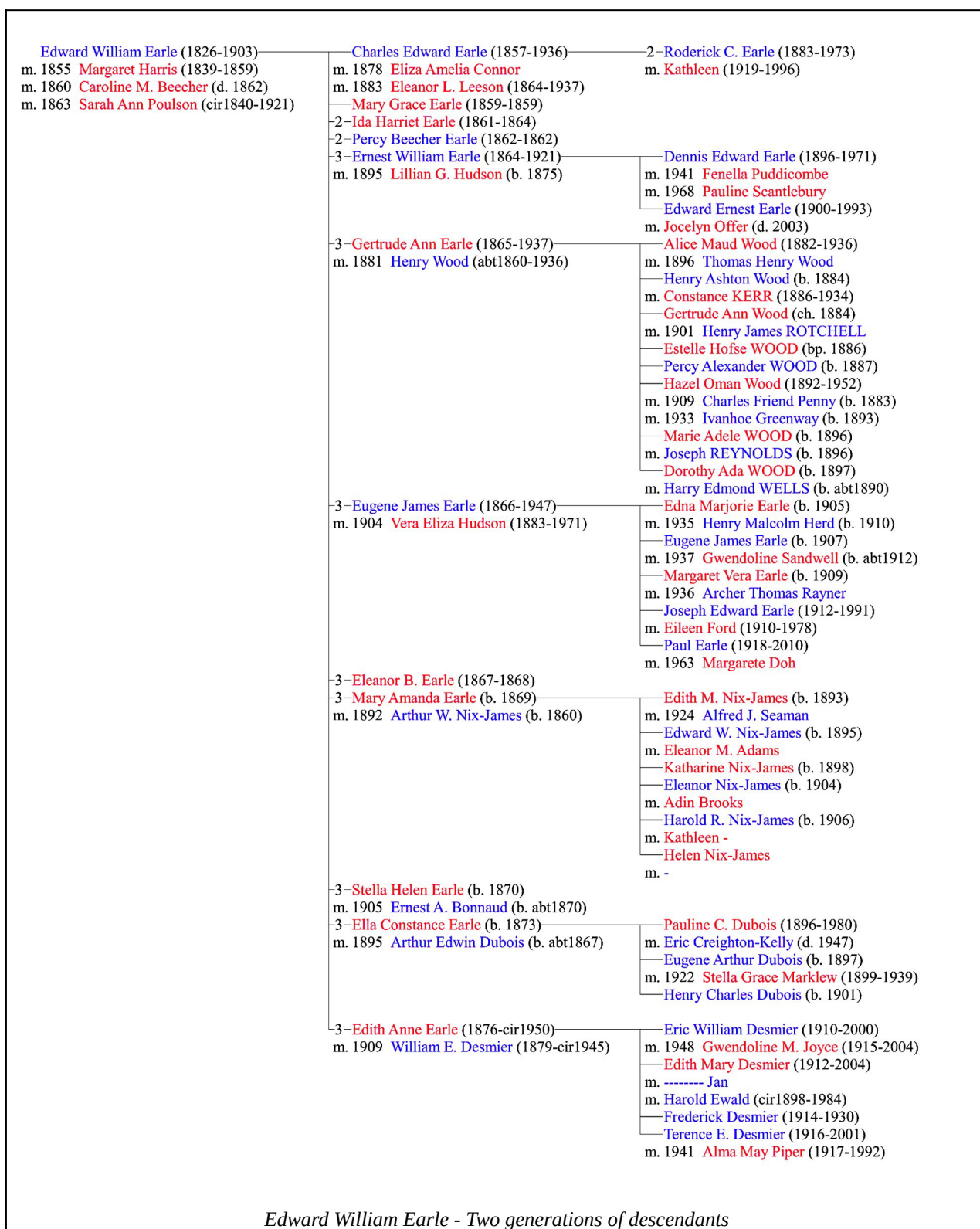
1st child of Lieut. Solomon Earle & Bridget

Thomas was born in Dacca (1824). He was named after a Captain in the Bengal army that his father, Solomon, had served under. In his Will, Thomas left all his possessions to Bridget, his mother. Thomas died in November 1875 and is presumed not to have married. He is buried in the same grave as his father. The following story about him was passed down the family to another descendant of Solomon Earle.

Lieut. Thomas Earle, second son of Lieutenant Solomon Earle was once attacked by an Indian thief who, taking his sword that hung at the bedside, made to kill him as he slept. He awoke in time to grapple with the thief who, however, got the better of him but not before the sword on being seized by Mr Earle cut through that gentleman's fingers and severed them. His mother Bridget rushed into the room and seized the thief and held him 'till Thomas Earle procured a rope. They then made him over to the police. He only got 6 months!

Edward William Earle

2nd child of Lieutenant Solomon Earle & Bridget

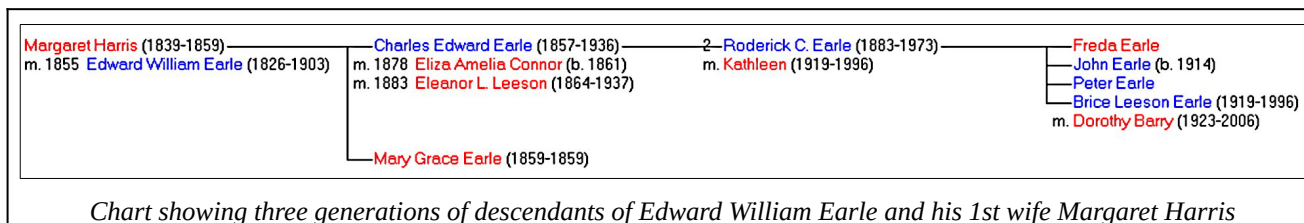


Edward William Earle - Two generations of descendants

Edward was born in Allahabad in 1826. He was baptised one year later in Saugor where his father was serving as a Lieutenant with the 45th Native Infantry. Edward had three wives. His first wife Margaret died shortly after the birth of her second child, Mary, who lived just three days. At the time Edward was employed in Calcutta as an auctioneer (for Indigo?) Only one child, Charles, lived to adulthood. Information on his children and their families follows.

Charles Edward Earle

Surviving child of Edward William Earle and his first wife Margaret Harris



Charles married twice. When he married his first wife Eliza his occupation was a clerk with the Public Works Department in Lahore. I have found no record of children from this marriage and I have not found a date for the death of Eliza but Charles is recorded as a widower in 1883 when he married Eleanor in New Delhi. On the marriage record his occupation is given as an Inspector of Police, however, when he died in Lucknow in 1936 he was recorded as a retired railway official. According to family information their only known son, Roderick Collins Leeson Earle, initially was employed a Deputy Superintendent of Police in Uttar Pradesh before immigrating to England. He served with the RAF during WW2 and lost both legs during the conflict. I have a DNA match to this family (see chapter 14).

In 1860 Edward married Caroline Mary Ann Beecher, the daughter of an Indigo Planter from Tirhoot. Edward's occupation was given as an assistant to a merchant on the marriage record. A family story has it that Caroline died childless although records indicate that she gave birth to Ida Harriet Earle in September 1861 and Percy Beecher Earle in 1862. Ida died of convulsions when three years old and Percy only lived three days, dying four days before his mother Caroline.

In 1863 Edward William married his third wife, Sarah Ann Poulson. Sarah's father was an Indigo Planter from Nundunpore, Kishnaghur (see following sections). By this time Edward was 37 years old and Sarah 23. On the marriage extract Edward's profession is given as a Mercantile Assistant. One family story suggests that Edward was working for the Poulson family. Edward and Sarah had at least eight children over the next fourteen years, living the whole time in Calcutta. William died in 1903 aged 76 and Sarah died in 1921 aged 81. In Edward's will he only mentions Sarah and makes a strong point that their house in 9 Williams Lane Calcutta was bought by him with Sarah's money and held in trust by him for her.

In her will Sarah wanted her house and household goods to be sold and the revenue divided equally between her two sons Ernest and Eugene. Her bedroom and bathroom furniture was to left to daughter Ella. She stated that her jewellery was not to be sold but to be divided between her four daughters Mary Amanda, Stella Helen, Ella Constance and



*Edward William Earle and Sarah
(photo C Earle)*

Edith Anne. This suggests that her other daughter Gertrude Ann (who married Henry Wood) had died by 1921.

Sarah also mentioned that a medal (Solomon Earle's Waterloo medal) and a crest had already been made over to Ernest.

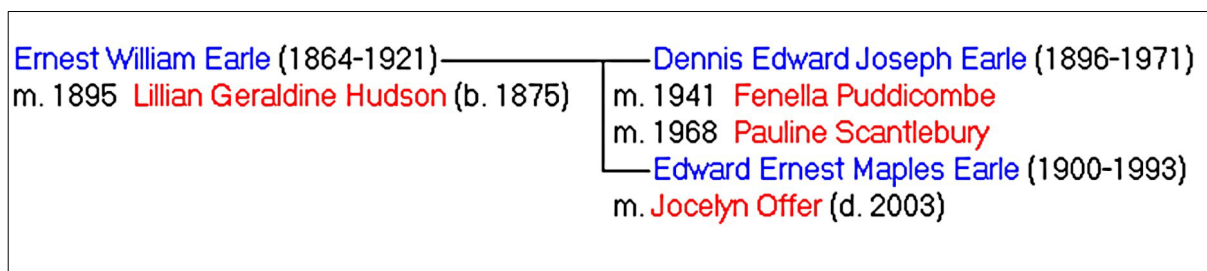
Details on Edward and Sarah's children and their descendants follow. Chapter 13 is devoted to Sarah's ancestors the Poulson, Gee and Dunn families.



Children of Edward William Earle & Sarah Ann Poulson

Ernest William Earle

1st child of Edward William Earle and Sarah



Ernest was born March 1864 and grew up to become an Engraver working for the Survey of India. In 1895 he married Lillian Gertrude Hudson. They had two children, both born in Calcutta; Dennis (b. 1896) and Edward (b. 1900). Both boys trained for the Anglican priesthood.



Dennis Edward Earle, Edward Ernest Maples Earle and their mother Lillian Geraldine Earle (nee Hudson)
(Photo C.Earle)

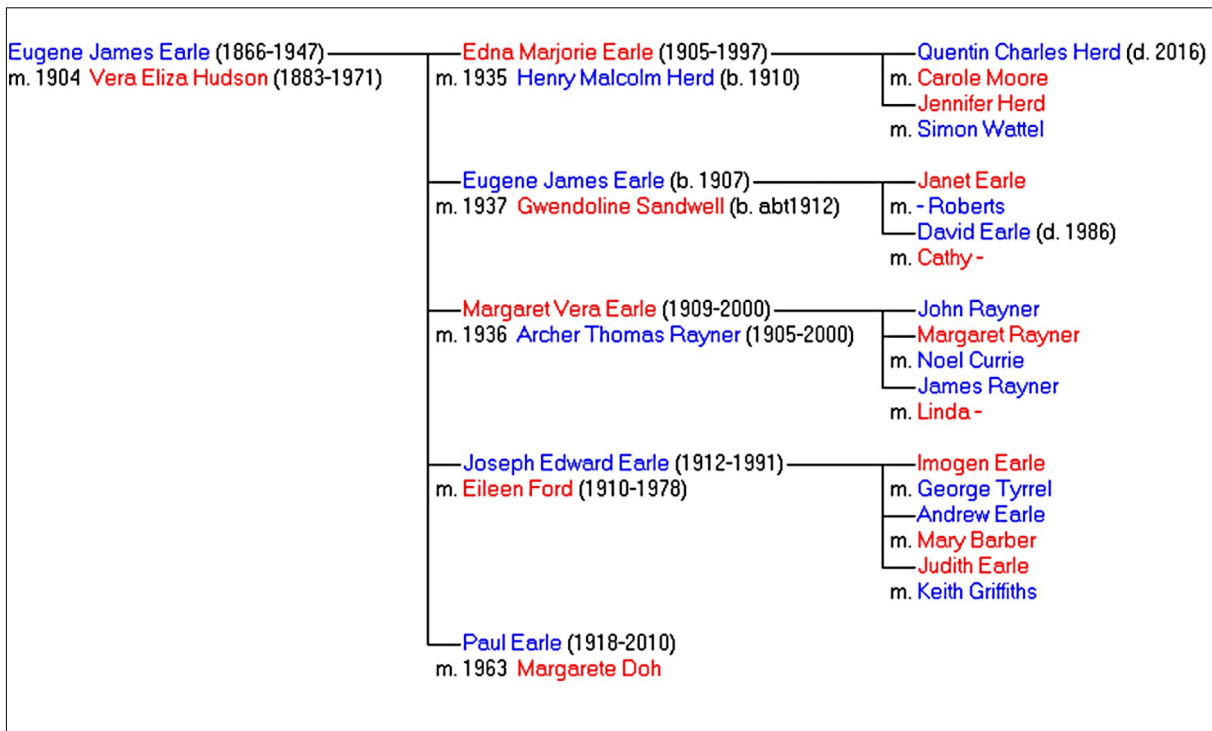
Dennis married Fenella Puddicombe whilst he was the vicar of Beaford, Devon during WW2. They had three children, Margaret, Christopher and Michael. Dennis married a second time to Pauline Scantlebury. Dennis served as a Priest in several appointments in Yorkshire, Kent Devon and Hampshire. He was also made an Honorary Canon at Winchester Cathedral, Hampshire. Dennis died in 2001 in Winchester. Edward married Jocelyn Offer and was an Archdeacon in Kent. He is believed to have died in 1993.

I have a DNA link to this family. See chapter 14.

2nd child of Edward William Earle and Sarah

Eugene James Earle

3rd child of Edward William Earle and Sarah



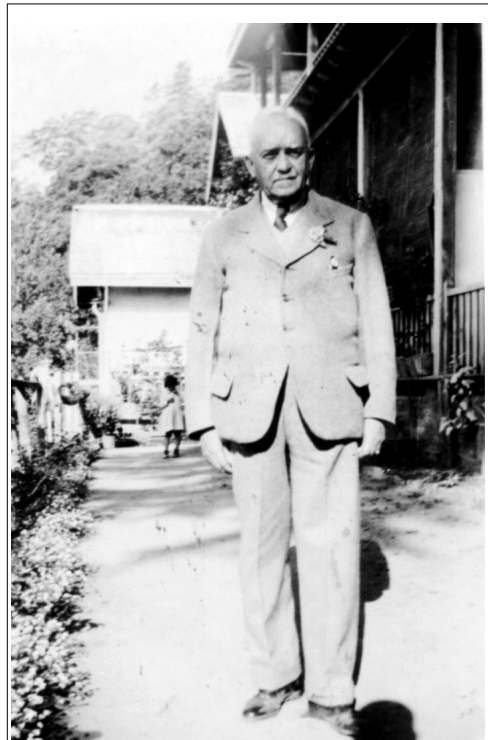
Eugene James Earle
(photo: J Watel Herd)

Eugene was born in June 1866. In 1904, in Calcutta he married Vera Eliza Hudson, the sister of his brother Ernest's wife Lillian. Eugene was 17 years older than Vera. On the marriage certificate he is recorded as an Accountant with the military. Daughter-in-law Margarete remembered Eugene as a very upright and honest man with no time for bribery. She believed that he had also been posted to Hong Kong for a period of time. When New Delhi became the capital in 1912, Eugene became the Deputy Controller of Military Accounts and the family moved to Delhi. In the summer months the Government would move up to Simla to escape the heat on the Plains. The journey was accomplished by train taking most of the

family possessions except for furniture.

Eugene liked Simla so much that when he retired from the Military he took a job with the Indian Army Canteen Board. This was based in Simla and so the family settled there permanently. Eugene became Chairman of the Anglo-Indian Association there for a while.

Eugene and Vera had five children; Edna Marjorie, Eugene James, Margaret Vera, Joseph and Paul. Eugene



Eugene James Earle

died in 1947 in Simla, Vera later went to live with her daughter Margaret and husband Archer in New Zealand. She died there in 1971. I have a DNA link to this family. See chapter 14.

Most of the following information on Vera and each of the children was compiled by Margarete the wife of Paul and passed on to me by her niece Jenny Wattel-Herd. I have rearranged some of the text to better relate to my subheadings, but the text is largely that of Margarete (*italicised*).

Vera Eliza Hudson

Wife of Eugene James Earle

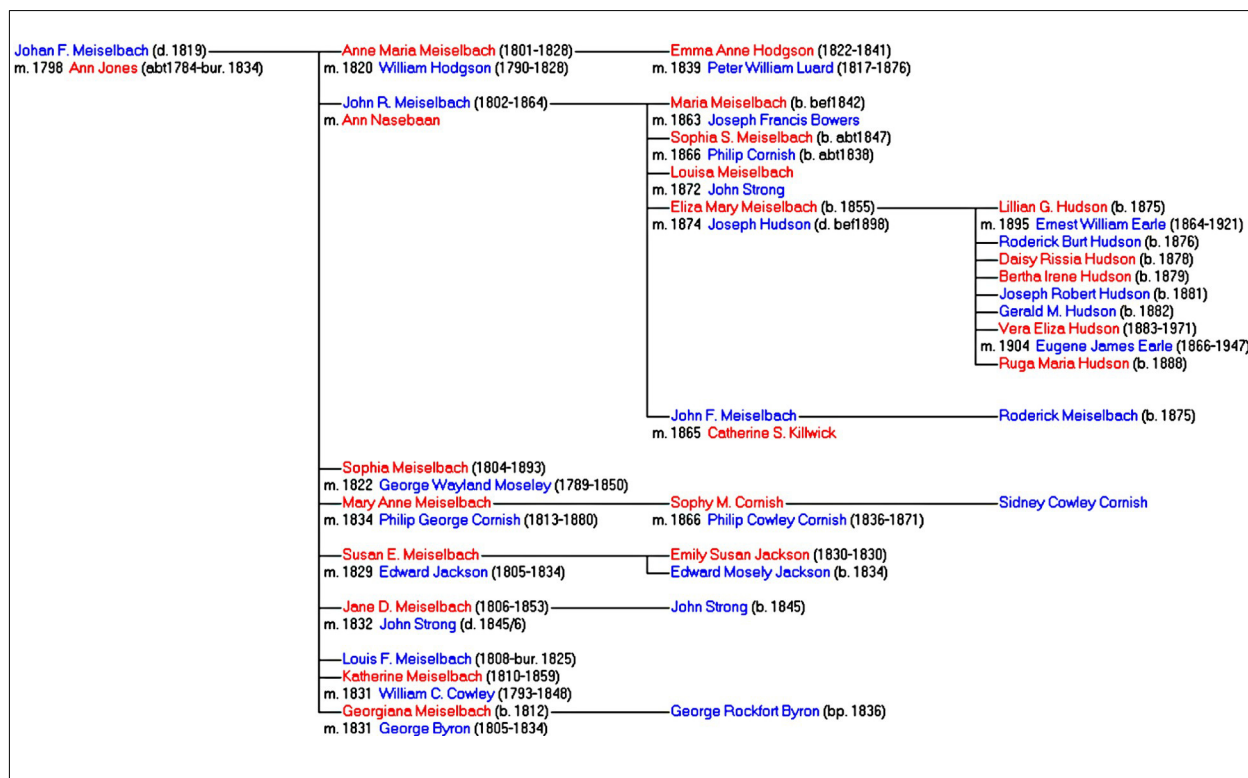
According to Margarete, Vera was raised by one of her mother's sisters who had no children of her own. She grew up in Piperal in Bihar north of Calcutta, an Indigo growing area. Her father, Joseph Hudson, was a contractor/accountant when he married Eliza Mary Meiselbach in Calcutta in 1874. I have included more information on the Meiselbach family in the next section.

Vera grew up in Piperai and never went to school. She wrote, however, beautiful letters and was eager to learn all her life. She was especially interested in reading, languages and religion. When later in life she immigrated to New Zealand, she learned Maori in her old age.

Joseph Hudson fell from a horse and died of his injuries in middle age. His widow Eliza Mary Hudson was granted a pension because of the services of her father, John Roderick Sydney Meiselbach, and went back to live at Piperai for some time. When her daughters became of marriageable age, Eliza Mary Hudson took a job as a matron in a British school in Calcutta. In the meantime her sister also had died and Vera Eliza returned to live with her mother. Apparently the bond between them was never strong (as she had been raised by an aunt). When Eliza Mary Hudson visited some of her children in Simla, she not surprisingly, preferred to stay with one of her other daughters, Ruga Hopcroft. She chose to travel third class, a scandal which the Earles were not aware of, and lived to nearly 100.

The Meiselbach Family

Johan Freidrich Meiselbach was the great grandfather of sisters Lillian and Vera Hudson who married brothers Ernest and Eugene Earle



Marguerite Earle née Doh believed that Johan was born in Jena, East Germany in 1759. There is reference on the internet (openarchives, 2024) that indicates that he sailed on board *the Indus* in the service of the Dutch East India Company (VOC) as a soldier. It also records that he was from Roedelstadt which is a town about 40km south of Jena. He left the Netherlands in August 1790 arriving in Batavia in May 1791. The only other record at this source is that he resigned from the VOC in 1793 after 826 days service.

An entry in Hodson's list for Frederick shows that in 1798 he married Anne Jones, the daughter of Mostyn Jones, a merchant in Cawnpore. On the marriage entry Johan is described as Commandant in charge of Ali Behadur's army (a Nawab of the dominion of Banda in northern India).

Meiselbach, Johan Frederick (d. 1819) Colonel cmd. Bundelkhand Najib Bn. D Serampore 15 Oct 1819; bur. Barrackpore.

A native of Jena m. Cawnpore 8 Aug 1798, Anne, dau. Mostyn Jones, merchant and sister of William Robert Jones, q.v. She died Calcutta 17 July 1834, aged 48) His daus. m. George byron, P.C. Cornish, C.W. Cowley, William Hodgson, Edward jackson, and G.W. Moseley, qq.v.

Services: Described in the marriage register as "Comdt. Alli Behadur's Army" Col. In the servicwe of Rajah Himmat Bahadur of Bundelkhand and in 1803 was cmdg. 3,000 native Mahratta troops in Bundelkhand. Came over to the British on the outbreak of the Maharatta war in 1803, and was given employment with the local rank of Col.

Refs: family information. Cal. Govt. Gaz. 28 Oct 1819. Will dated Calcutta 8 Feb. 1815; proved 30 Oct. 1819.

Colonel Frederick Johan Meiselbach, Services

Copied extract from List of the Officers of the Bengal Army 1758-1834 by V.C.P, Hodson

The Calcutta Government Gazette is not currently available online for the year 2019 (referred to above) however, an extract from that obituary was published elsewhere. I have reproduced it below.

MENTION is made of yet another soldier of fortune in the *Calcutta Government Gazette* for October 28, 1819. On October 15, there died at Serampore at the age of sixty Colonel Johan Friedrich Meiselbach. In the course of a lengthy obituary notice it is recorded that he arrived in Bengal "when very young" and "engaged in the service of Rajah Himmat Bahadur of Bundelcund," the "Gossain" chief. "For a period of more than eighteen years he showed himself an active and successful officer, distinguishing himself on various occasions in the field and as a reward for his gallant services the munificent prince who had profited by his exertions raised him to the rank of a colonel and placed him at the head of six thousand men." There he trained according to the principles of European warfare. "In the year 1803 or 4 when a general war broke out in India, a British force, having crossed the Jumna, was joined by the troops of the Rajah and the Colonel, and this combined army defeated Nabob Shumshare a powerful Mahratta chief who had declared himself hostile to the British power." After the death of Himmat Bahadur, Meiselbach was taken into the company's service: but some three or four years later his brigade was ordered to be reduced and he retired on a pension of Rs. 1,000 a month. "His funeral was of a most imposing character:" The Danish flag was hoisted half mast high, the sepoys of the settlement were paraded at his door, and throngs of Europeans and Indians from all quarters of the town, preceded by the Danish authorities accompanied the body across the river to Barrackpore where it was received by a battalion of Sepoys with their commander at their head, and consigned to the tomb with all military honours. He left a widow and ten children. Six of his daughters were married to officers in the Bengal Army.

*Extract from the obituary for Johan Freidrich Meiselbach
Source' Bengal Past & Present V35, 1928 p188/9 (accessed using www.archive.org pages 218/9 Feb. 2024)*

The obituary for Johan/John states that he had ten children, however, I have only been able to identify nine from available records.

Some descendants of Johan Frederick Meiselbach and Ann

Anne Maria Meiselbach

1st child of Johan Meiselbach and Ann

Anne was born about 1800. When she was 20 years old she married 29 year old William Hodgson, a Lieutenant in the 13th Native Infantry in St John's Cathedral, Calcutta. John was the son of Major Francis Hodgson. William was baptised in Cawnpore but was sent to England for his education returning to India in 1808 as a cadet. He was invalided out of the army in 1828 a few months before his death in Lucknow, the cause of death was not recorded. Anne had died two months before William (Hodson, 1928).

Their daughter Emma, married Peter William Luard from Warwickshire, England in 1839 when he was a Lieutenant in the 55th N.I. based in Lucknow. Emma died in 1841.

John Roderick Sidney Meiselbach

2nd child of Johan Meiselbach and Ann

John is reputed to have been born under a Mowha tree during the seige of Kalinjar, Uttar Pradesh on 5 June 1802. According to Margarete Earle John was educated at Marlborough College in England. When he returned to India he became an Indigo planter at Buttaneah in the Bihar district.

The following piece was written by Margarete and passed on to me by Jenny Wattel-Herd,

It was very profitable and John Roderick Sydney Meiselbach lived in some style in a large house next to the indigo processing plant, the Battuneah factory at Purneah, which was situated at the great trunk road in Bihar. Lavish parties took place, including cockfighting and gambling. He was however a successful businessman. There were sports, racing, cricket, hockey and hunt meets. There is an oral tradition that he set fire to a twenty guinea note! The opportunity to put money aside for a rainy day was limited in Bihar, and even nowadays, entrepreneurs invest in their own businesses. As was often the custom in India in the eighteenth century for an Englishman to live with a native woman, John Roderick Sydney Meiselbach lived with Ann Nasebaan, the daughter of a Jewish jute merchant. Their daughter Eliza Mary was born in 1855, and there was at least another daughter, but no son. John Roderick Sydney married Ann Nasebaan in 1857, the year of the Indian Mutiny. She signed the marriage certificate with a mark. She was 40 and John 55, but there is no record of her parents on the document. Perhaps they were no longer alive.



John Roderick Sidney Meiselbach
Taken from a copy in possession of
Chris Earle

Upon John's death in 1864 the probate valued his estate in excess of 70,000 rupees but there is no will available to show how it was distributed.

I have found five children that mention John as one of the parents on the marriage extract but I have been unable to locate any baptism records. What information I have has been gleaned from the marriage extracts.

Maria Meiselbach

Daughter of JRS Meiselbach

Maria was 'of age' when in 1863 she married indigo planter Joseph Francis Bowers who was a widower in Bhangulpore.

Sophia Sarah Meiselbach

Daughter of JRS Meiselbach

Sophia was 19 years old when she married 28 year old Philip Cowley Cornish who was an indigo planter in Bhuttaneah. Her Aunt Mary had married a Philip George Cornish some 32 years earlier. It seems that Sophia married her cousin.

Louisa Meiselbach

Daughter of JRS Meiselbach

Louisa married Indigo planter John Strong in Calcutta in 1872. I believe that they were cousins, however, there is nothing on the marriage extract to indicate that other than that

John's Father's name was also John. A John Strong was born to Louisa's aunt Jane and her husband John.

Eliza Mary Meiselbach

Daughter of JRS Meiselbach

When she was 19 years old Eliza married Joseph Hudson in Calcutta in 1874. Joseph's profession is described as either a contractor or an accountant on the baptism records of their eight children. Other researchers (Ancestry) have suggested that Joseph was born in Greenwich England and his family immigrated to Australia and that he went to India from Tasmania.

Their first child/daughter, Lillian Geraldine Hudson, married Ernest William Earle in Calcutta in 1895. Her photograph (with her two sons) is included in the earlier section on E.W. Earle

I have included a memoir from Margarete Earle about Eliza and Joseph in the earlier paragraph about their daughter Vera Eliza Hudson.

John Frederic K Meiselbach

Son of JRS Meiselbach

In 1875 John married Catherine Sophia Killwick in Purneah. In 1875 a son Roderick Joseph Morrison Meiselbach was baptised also in Purneah. On the baptism extract John's profession is recorded as Zamindar.

Sophia Meiselbach

3rd Child of Johan Meiselbach and Ann

Sophia married George Wayland Mosely, in 1822 in Calcutta. George was a Lieutenant who rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the 64th N.I. He was cashiered in 1844 for having concealed from the Commander in Chief that there had been a mutiny in his troops. Hodson (1928) records that three of his daughters also married officers in the Bengal army. George is recorded as having died in Boulogne-sur-Mer, France in 1850. Sophia outlived him by 43 years and received a pension from the Bengal Military Fund until she died aged 89 in 1893.

Mary Anne Meiselbach

4th Child of Johan Meiselbach and Ann

Mary married Philip George Cornish in Benares 1834. Philip, the son of an HEIC surgeon, was an ensign when they married but rose to the rank of Major by the time he retired. He died 1880 (Hodson, 1928). I have found nothing else about Mary. A daughter, Sophy Meiselbach Cornish married her cousin Philip Cowley Cornish who had become an indigo planter. They are believed to have had a son, Sidney.

Susan Elizabeth Meiselbach

5th Child of Johan Meiselbach and Ann

Susan married Lieut. Edward Jackson in Dinapore, 1829. Edward was from Essex where his father was an iron merchant. Edward died of Apoplexy in Benares less than 4 years later. They had two children, Emily Susan and Edward Mosely. Edward was born after the death of his father (Hodson, 1928).

Jane Dorothy Meiselbach

6th Child of Johan Meiselbach and Ann

When Jane married John Strong in 1832, John's profession was recorded as sub-assistant to the Commissioner of Assam. A son, also named John, was born in March 1845. On his baptism 11 months later it was recorded that his father was deceased. This son may have been the John Strong who married Louisa, daughter of Roderick Meiselbach.

Louis Ferdinand Meiselbach

7th Child of Johan Meiselbach and Ann

Louis was buried just three weeks before his seventeenth birthday at Fort William, Calcutta (1825).

Katharine Agatha Meiselbach

8th Child of Johan Meiselbach and Ann

Katharine was baptised at the same time as John and Louis in Serampore in 1811. Katharine/Catherine married Captain William Constantine Cowley of the 35th N.I. at Calcutta in 1831. William was from Dysert, County Clare, Ireland. I have not found a record of any children of the couple. William was invalided in 1842. He died in Dehra Dun in 1848. (Hodson, 1928).

Georgiana Caroline Barbara Meiselbach

9th Child of Johan Meiselbach and Ann

Georgiana married Lieut. George Byron of the 48th N.I. in Calcutta 1831. George was from Houghton-le-Skerne in County Durham. He was a great grandson of William 4th Baron Byron (Hodson, 1928). He died in Sitapur Uttar Pradesh of fever in 1834. They had one son, George Rockfort Byron, who was baptised in Lucknow 1836 (Hodson, 1928).

Children of Eugene Earle and Vera

Edna Marjorie Earle

1st child of Eugene & Vera

Edna studied French at Delhi University and was the first woman to pass the entrance examination and join the British Indian Civil Service. She married Harry (Henry) Herd and had two children, Quentin and Jennifer, who were born and brought up in India.

At work Edna came across a memorandum from the end of the 19th Century detailing that Britain did not want the same thing to happen in India as had happened in South America. The Portuguese and Spanish settlers had become powerful and had gained independence from their mother countries. Anglo-Indians were in future to be kept down. This led to the custom of women returning to Britain for the birth of their children and of children being sent to England for their education. Previously Anglo-Indians had been encouraged to settle and even marry Indians. [Henry's middle name was Malcolm but it has been wrongly transcribed as Arthur on his marriage to Edna. This was inconsistent with his birth extract and his passport]

Eugene James Earle

2nd child of Eugene & Vera

Known as James to distinguish him from his father. James won a scholarship to the Cranfield Institute of Technology, now Cranfield University, the British Aircraft Institute. He was one of only two out of 200 applicants to gain a place. He returned to India as an Aircraft Inspector where he met and married Mona Sandwell. Their two children Janet and

David were born in India. He died suddenly in middle age of a heart attack playing squash. Mona went to England with the children who were still quite young. Cousin, Archdeacon Edward Maples Earle, found a live-in position for her as warden of the old people's Alms houses in Chislehurst, Kent. When her daughter married, Mona later married her husband's father.



Eugene James Earle (b. 1907)

Margaret Vera Earle

3rd child of Eugene & Vera

Margaret (Peggy) Earle became headmistress of a school in Delhi. She married Archer Rayner. During the War Archer was reported missing presumed dead, but he had been taken prisoner by the Japanese, suffering great hardship. When he returned, although he was a professional soldier, he left the Army and they emigrated with children John and Margaret to New Zealand where James (Jim) was born. They bought a smallholding which Archer worked in the evenings with the help of Peggy. She died in 2000 aged 90. Archer died in the same year. Their house was a Kauri bungalow which Jim and Linda had transported to another location when the land was sold for building. Archer Rayner Place marks the area where their farm once stood (Greenhithe, Auckland).

I have a DNA match to this family (see chapter 14).

Joseph Earle

4th child of Eugene & Vera

Joseph was sent to England to complete his schooling. He lived with his aunt Lilian in Bexley Kent where her husband Ernest was the Vicar of St John's Church. After school Joe found office employment in London during the 1930s Depression. He went on to be awarded a Licentiate in Theology from St Aidan's College, Birkenhead. He was ordained Deacon in Rochester Cathedral in 1938. Other appointments were St Aldate's Church, Oxford, St Luke's, Chatham, and in the mining village of Stanley in County Durham. He studied for his BA in classics at St John's College, Durham, where he sang in the choir to help finance his degree course. He played hockey for the University.

His first living was Christ Church, Healey, near Rochdale Lancashire. He served most of his ministry in the industrial Diocese of Manchester. Later he moved to the large and growing parish of St Paul's, Oldham where he founded the daughter church of St Cuthbert, Fitton Hill. This was followed by St Catherine's, Horwich. In 1966 he took up ministry in the Bath and Wells Diocese as Rector of Norton St Philip and in country parishes in Somerset, later becoming Rural Dean of Frome.

Joseph married Eileen Marion Ford whom he had met and married at Bexley in Kent. They had three children, Andrew, Imogen and Judith.

Paul Earle

5th child of Eugene & Vera

Paul passed his Matriculation at 18 and went to St John's College, Delhi, first to read Sciences and then his real love, English and History. There was no money to send him to England. Paul lived with Peggy in her school.

After graduation, World War II having started, Paul volunteered for military service. He trained as a cipher. He saw action in the Western Desert against Rommel, then in Italy at Monte Casino (he passed out in the hold of the bomber in which he was being transported). Later in Crete and after VE Day in Europe he fought in the Burma campaign. He declined to become an officer with the Gurkhas because he felt his health was not strong enough, but remained as a cipher throughout the War working from a two-man tent, a decision which no doubt saved his life. He always carried his small bible with him in his rucksack wherever he went.

Paul decided to be demobbed in Britain, not in India. His ship stayed in Bombay for a while, which enabled him to see his parents Eugene and Vera Earle in Simla after his absence for 6 years on active service. When Paul reached Simla, his dog Susi sat on a distant hill and recognised his whistle after all that time. His father, Eugene, though sick, was still alive.

On leaving India, Paul started a new life in Manchester not far from where his brother Joseph had his first parish of Healey near Rochdale. Paul found a job as an administrative assistant at the University of Manchester.

Paul would have liked to have trained to be a hotel manager, but the only college was in Switzerland and Paul did not speak French, having taken Latin at school. He lived in Toc H, a hostel for ex-servicemen. At weekends he joined a walking club and walked in the Pennines and, during the holidays, the Lake District and the Scottish Highlands with HF Holiday Fellowship. After his war experience, he never wanted to live in a tent again.

In 1952 Paul immigrated to New Zealand to be near his mother and sisters family. He trained as a teacher. Initially he taught in out-of-the-way places but ended up as Head of the Department of Social Studies at a large school in Auckland. His leisure activities were swimming, fishing and bush-crafting with the Alpine Club, of which Edmund Hilary was a member.

After 11 years teaching, he was entitled to an unpaid Sabbatical. He took a boat to England and started teaching English as a foreign language in a primary school in Manchester.

Paul met Margarete Doh when on a holiday in Penzance. They married in 1963 in Bietigheim, Germany. Paul did not speak any German; a push of the elbow was a sign for him to say 'ja'. They started their life together in Crawley, Sussex where a house came with the job. After a year, Paul was promoted Head of an annex in an old Victorian building in the village of Worth, to which the children were taken by bus. Paul studied part-time for a Diploma in Education, in order to have an English qualification. He then became headmaster of West Pennard Primary School, Somerset. He retired in 1978 at the age of 60 they then built up a holiday and bed and breakfast business.

Paul died from a heart attack aged 91 in 2010. He is buried at Cheddar, Somerset.

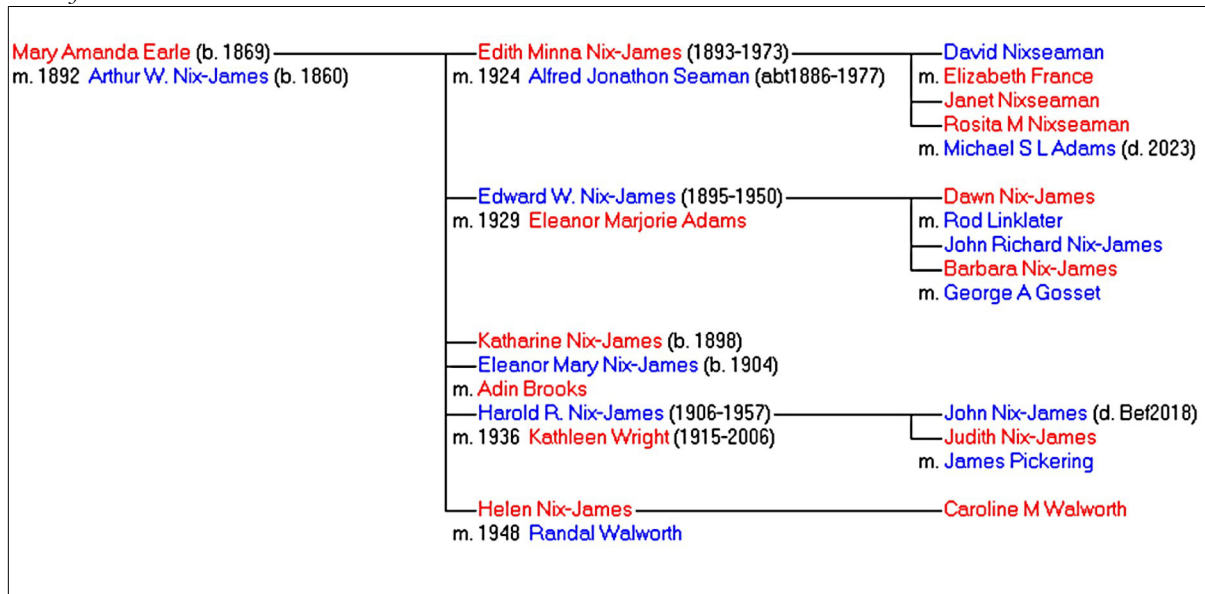
Eleanor Blanche Earle

4th child of Edward William Earle & Sarah

Eleanor was born November 1867 and died 7 months later of dysentery

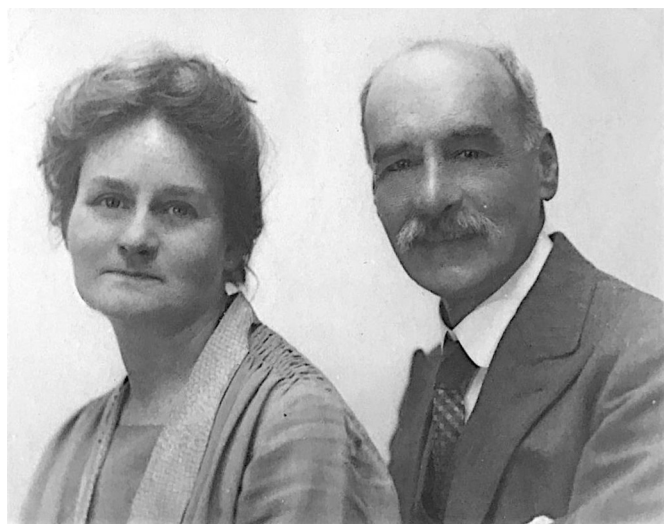
Mary Amanda Earle

5th child of Edward William Earle & Sarah



Mary, born 1869, married Arthur William Nix-James, an engraver, in 1892 in Calcutta. Arthur was a widower and the father of two children by his first marriage (one died an infant). By 1911 the family was living in Bristol, England. Dawn Linklater, a daughter of Edward Nix James and Eleanor, related :

My grandfather raised his children as Anglicans but when they reached adulthood he sent them out to try different religions saying that they should choose what religion they wanted. He didn't care which so long as they had one. Perhaps that was why most of them were religious. Edith married a C. of E. clergyman. My father was a lay reader giving the C. of E. services in our small church in Chindwarra, India if there was no ordained clergyman. Kitty became a Quaker. Nelly (Eleanor) was a missionary, and Roman Catholic I think, for a while. Harold was also ordained in the Anglican Church.



Mary Amanda Earle and Arthur Nix-James circa 1930
(photo: R Adams)



Mary & Arthur Nix-James children l to r: rear Harold, Edith, Edward, Katharine. seated Eleanor, Helen in front
(photo: R. Adams)

Children of Mary Amanda Earle and Arthur Nix-James

Edith Nix-James

1st child of Mary & Arthur

Edith, married Alfred Jonathon Seaman, a clerk in holy orders in 1924 in Bombay. The family name was later changed to Nixseaman. One anecdote about the change of name from Seaman to Nixseaman comes from Dawn Linklater :

I was told is that Jack was a Dean of the C. of E. in India. In the same town there was a villain also with the name Jack Seaman and every time he was caught or arrested he used to say he was the Dean, giving that address. Uncle Jack reputedly got so annoyed by all this that he changed his name using the Nix before the Seaman.

Edith and Alfred went on to have three children; David Janet and Rosita. I have a DNA matches with this family. See chapter 14.

Edward Nix-James

2nd child of Mary & Arthur

Edward was an engineer (B.Sc.) and was employed by the Indian Service of Engineers. He married Eleanor Adams in Bristol in 1929. Their first child, John Richard was born in Bengal in 1930 but died of typhoid in infancy. A second child Barbara was born in Amraoti, Bengal in 1931. She immigrated to South Africa but subsequently settled in England and married in Poole, Dorset.

I have a DNA match to this family. See chapter 14.

Katharine Nix-James

3rd child of Mary & Arthur

Kitty emigrated to England and made a successful living as an artist. She died in Norwich, Norfolk.

Eleanor Nix-James

4th child of Mary & Arthur

Dawn Linklater told me that Eleanor (Nelly) was twice engaged to other men but both died before their marriage could take place. She later married Adin Brooks an American missionary.



One of Kitty's paintings
Source R. Adams



Eleanor Nix-James
Source R. Adams

Harold Nix-James

5th child of Mary & Arthur

Harold graduated from Bristol University and went on to the Litchfield Theological College. He was ordained as a Deacon in 1933 and as a Priest the following year. He married Kathleen in Basford, Nottinghamshire in 1936. They had two children John and Judith. He was for many years Vicar at Tittensor, Staffordshire. Harold died after a prolonged illness at 51 years old. Kathleen died when she was 91 years old in Denbyshire, Wales.

Helen Nix-James

6th child of Mary & Arthur

Helen is known to have looked after her elderly parents before marriage to Randal Walworth in 1948 in Weston Super mare, Somerset. They are known to have had a daughter born the following year.

Children of Edward William Earle and Sarah Poulson (continued)

Stella Helen Earle

6th child of Edward William Earle and Sarah

Stella was born in 1870 and in 1905 married Ernest Bonnaud, a clerk in Government Service in Calcutta. Nothing more has been found regarding children or deaths in India or elsewhere.

Ella Constance Earle

7th child of Edward William Earle and Sarah

Ella Constance Earle (b. 1873) m. 1895 Arthur Edwin Dubois (1867-1908)	Pauline C. Dubois (1896-1980) m. 1921 Eric Creighton-Kelly (abt1893-1947)	E. Creighton-Kelly (1922-1965) m. Sheila P. Hurts (1926-2012)
	Eugene Arthur Dubois (b. 1897) m. 1922 Stella Grace Marklew (1899-1939)	Vivian Keith Dubois (abt1926-2013) m. Pamela Y. Roseboom
	Henry Charles Dubois (b. 1901)	

Ella, born 1873 married Arthur Edwin Dubois an Assistant Surgeon in 1895 in Calcutta. Pauline was their oldest child. She married Eric Creighton-Kelly who worked for the postal department. Their son, Errol, was born in Shillong, a hill station in NW India.

I have DNA links to this family. See chapter 14.

A second child, Eugene Arthur Dubois, married Stella Marklew in Dum Dum in 1922. Their son, Vivian, married Pamela Roseboom and the family migrated to Canada in 1953.

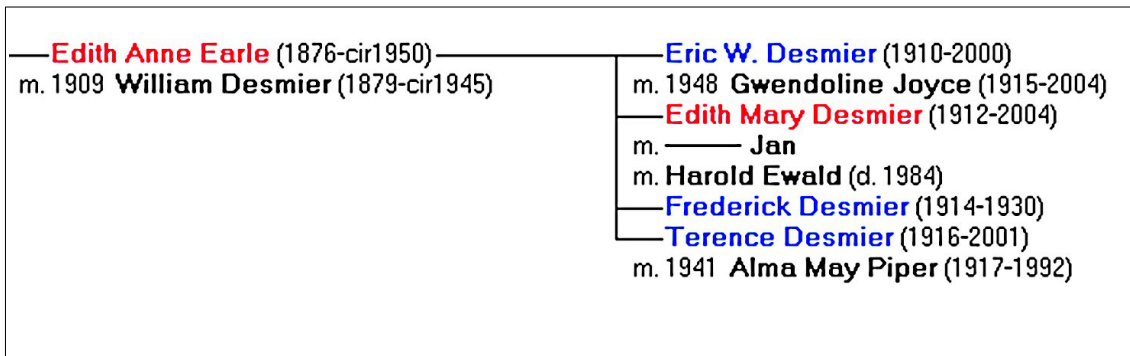
I have found nothing more on Ella and Arthur's third child Henry.

Arthur died in 1908 in Dacca as a result of heart failure related to influenza.

Edith Anne Earle

8th child of Edward William Earle & Sarah

Edith was the youngest child of Edward William and Sarah. She was born November 1876 and in June 1909 married William Edmond Desmier at the time a steam Engine driver. On the marriage registration Edith's occupation was recorded as a teacher. This was the second marriage for William whose first wife had died in 1906, one year after their marriage. After his first wife's death William went to Kenya either with, or as well as his brothers, Conrad and Arthur. On his return he met and married Edith. William completed studies to become a mechanical engineer and worked not only for several of the Indian railway companies but also for the Public Works Department. At one time he bought a plantation in Bokasagara, Kadur, Mysore State.



William and Edith travelled to England in 1938 but did not stay as they did not like the cold and not having servants. When they returned to India they built two houses in Whitefields near Bangalore. They sold one and lived in the other. Edith died about 1950, five years after William, and she is buried in the Lower Circular Rd cemetery in Calcutta with other members of the Earle family.

William and Edith had four children, Eric William Samuel, Edith M, Frederick Richard Earle, and Terence Earle. More details on these descendants are contained in my family history of the Desmier family.

Eric was sent to England after school at St Josephs in Darjeeling and studied Civil Engineering at Bristol University. After graduating he returned to India and worked for a railway company. The family immigrated to



Edith Anne Desmier (née Earle)

Canada after Indian Independence, where he worked for Alcan. I have several DNA matches to his descendants.

Edith was born July 1912. She immigrated to England and subsequently Canada then USA where she married Harold Ewald a retired electrical engineer. They lived in Ocean Grove, New Jersey where they had a guest house. Edith died in Sun City Florida April 2004.



William Edmond Desmier and Edith Anne with children Terrence and Edith

Frederick, born 1914 in Calcutta, died in Bangalore when 15 years old of Cerebral Malaria, although brother Terry believes that the doctor gave him too much morphine resulting in his death.

Terence (Terry or Ted) was born in New Delhi, January 1916 when his father was working for the Public Works Department in Agra. He was educated at Bishop Cotton School in Bangalore. At the age of 18 he went to England to study as a ship's Wireless Operator. He passed his exams for a position with Marconi in December 1935. Marconi was the company that at the time supplied operators to the shipping lines. As there was a waiting list of about 6 to 9 months for positions on ships, he then went to do further study at the British Radio Engineering College. He worked for several radio/electrical companies, the last of which was with the Boosey & Hawkes Hammond Organ Company where he stayed for about 2 years. He joined the RAF the day that war was declared. Terry went to their college at Colwyn Bay in Wales and then Clapham in London. He was stationed as a corporal (wireless operator) at Hendon, London (Gooze St.), Leighton (Bedfordshire), Whitehall, Cardington and Cranwell.



**Terry and Alma at Hurstpierpoint
on the occasion of their 50th
Wedding Anniversary**

He continued with this type of work after the war working for Cable & Wireless, overseas telecommunications (later to become British Telecom). During the war he married Alma May Piper, a Milliner from Marylebone, London. After the war they moved to a small holding in Langdon Hills, Essex where their only child was born (me). Terry's hobby and interest was farming and when I was about seven years old we moved to a hobby farm of 40 acres in Burgess Hill, Sussex where we reared beef cattle and kept laying poultry and turkeys for the Christmas market.

When he retired from work in London they moved to the nearby village of Hurstpierpoint. He had an allotment where he grew all his own fruit and vegetables. After the death of Alma (1992) he immigrated to South Australia and built and lived in a house in Angle Vale opposite his son Richard (me). Terry died in 2001 and his grave is in Angle Vale where he deposited Alma's ashes that he had brought with him from England.

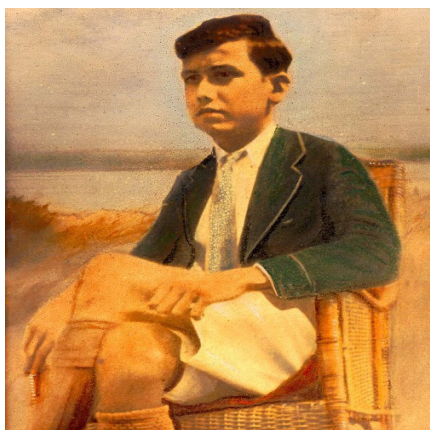
More information on the Desmier families that were in India can be found in a companion ebook to this one.



Eric William Desmier



Edith Mary Ewald née Desmier



Frederick Richard Earle Desmier

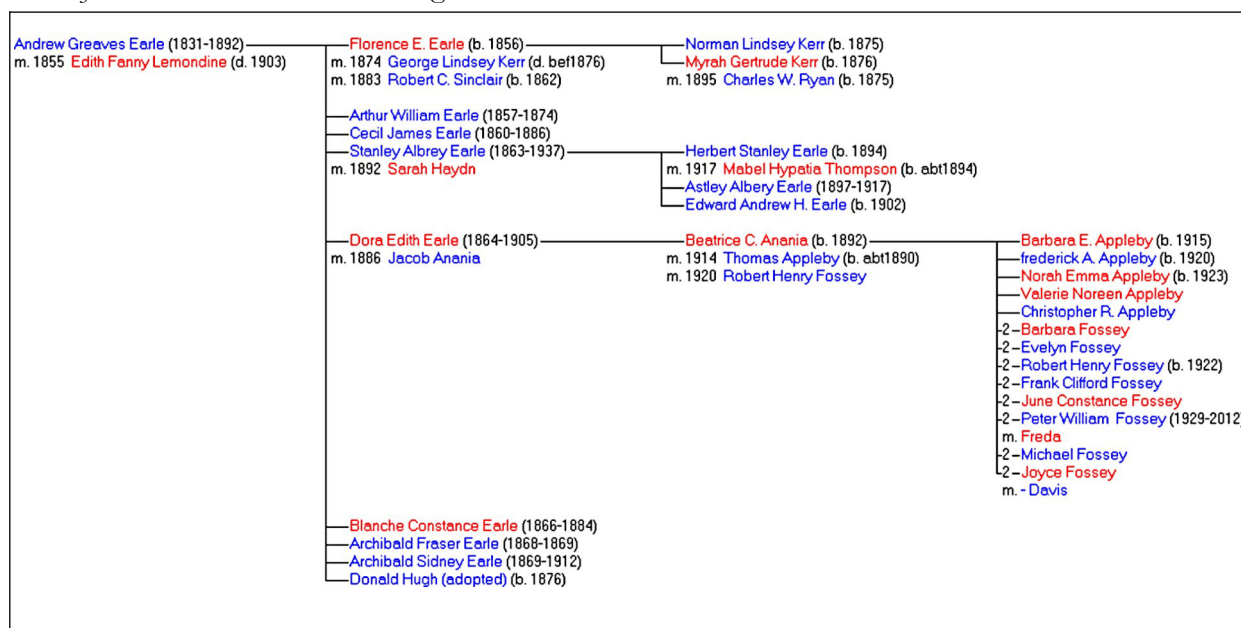


Terence Earle Desmier

Continuing with the children of Lieutenant Solomon Earle

Andrew Greaves Earle

3rd child of Lieut. Solomon Earle & Bridget



Andrew was the third son of Solomon Earle born August 1831 in Calcutta. He married Edith Fanny Lemondine in 1855 and the couple had seven children; Florence, Arthur, Stanley Aubrey, Dora, Blanche, Archibald Fraser and Archibald Stanley.

Stanley Aubrey Earle married Sarah Haydn and they had three children Herbert Stanley Haydn Earle, Astley Aubrey Earle and Edward Andrew Haydn Earle. Herbert Stanley married Mabel Hypatia Thompson in 1917 in Bilaspur.

Dora Edith Earle married Jacob Anania in 1886 and they had at least one child, Beatrice, born 1901.

Nothing other than their birth is known about Blanche and the two Archibalds.

Rosa Earle

4th child of Lieut. Solomon Earle & Bridget

All that is known about Rosa, the fourth child of Solomon and Bridget, is that she was baptised in Chunar October 1828.

Chapter 9

SUSANNAH EARLE AND LOUIS BIRD

Susannah was the 5th child of Capt. Solomon Earle and Rose

Susannah was born in Southwark London in December 1798. She is referred to as the third daughter of Captain Solomon Earle in the East India Register (but this forgets Sophia) and she is also referred to as Susan elsewhere in records.

In 1840, when Susannah was 42 years old, she married Major Louis Bird in Meerut, Bengal. It was Louis' second marriage. Susannah went out to India to spend time with her sister Eleanor whose husband had recently died. It is likely that it was then that she met Louis. A witness of their marriage was John Mathias. I suspect that this was Captain John Mathias of the 33rd N.I. a younger brother to Gabriel and Edward who married her sisters Elfrida and Eleanor.

BIRD, Louis Saunders (1792-1874). Lieut General. Colonel 23rd N.I. b. Chittagong 6 Nov. 1792. Cadet 1807. Arrived in India 16 Nov. 1808. Ensign 8 June 1808. Superseded and former rank cancelled 21 Nov. 1809. Resigned 20 Aug. 1811. Readmitted. Ensign 12 Dec. 1812. Lieut. 16 Dec. 1814. Restored to his original rank as Cadet, 4th class, 1807, and Bt. Capt. 4 June 1823. (G.O. No. 76 of 11 Mar. 1825.) Capt. 5 Apr. 1825. Major 18 June 1840. Lt. Col. 12 Sept. 1846. Col. 17 Apr. 1856. Maj. Gen. 4 Mar. 1858. Lt. Gen. 22 Feb. 1870. d. Clevedon, Somerset, 17 Apr. 1874.

Son of John Jenkins Bird, q.v. m. 1st (before 1815), (?). m. 2nd, Meerut, 3 Sept. 1840, Susan, 3rd dau. of Solomon Earle, q.v.

Services: Suspended whilst at Baraaat C.C. and sent to Europe. Served as a vol. with H.M. 22nd Foot during his suspension, and was present at capture of Mauritius in Dec, 1810. Promoted Ensign in HMS for his good service, and returned to Bengal in Mar. 1811. Restored to the Service 27 Feb. 1811. Posted as Ensign to 8th N.I. Nepal War 1816; Lieut. 8th N.I. (India medal). Under Bdr. Nation in Oudh 1816-7. Third Mahratta War; Lieut. 8th N.I. Adj. 1/8th N.I. 24 Nov. 1817 till 1824. Bundelkhand 1821. Hariana 1824-5. Adj. 24th N.I. 17 June 1824 till 4 May 1825. D.J.A.G. at Cawnpore 14 May 1830. Against the Kols 1832-3. Asst. to A.G.G., S.W. frontier. Principal Asst. Comr. Chota Nagpur. First Sikh War; Mudki; Ferozshahr; Badhowal; Aliwal (Medal with 2 clasps). Transfd. from 24th N.I. to 1st Eur. Fus. Jan. 1851; to 5th N.I. 11 Sept. 1852; to 13th N.I. 1 Dec. 1852; to 56th N.I. July 1855; to 40th N.I. 5 Aug. 1855; to 50th N.I. Oct. 1855; to 23rd N.I. July 1856. Bdr. 2 cl. 28 July 1855. Santhal revolt; comdg. Santhal F.F. Jan. 1856 till 1 Jan. 1857. Fur. 1857 till death.

Refs: D.I.B. The Times, 20 Apr. 1874.

Major Louis Saunders Bird, Services

Copied Extract from List of the Officers of the Bengal Army, 1758-1834, by V. C. P. Hodson

Louis' father, from Ireland, was of mixed Irish and French parentage and had also served with the HEIC army. Louis was born in Chittagong, India in 1792 and was widowed when he married Susan. It is not known if he had any children with his first wife. Louis also had two sisters that married HEIC Officers.

Louis and Susan were in Swainswick (near Bath, Somerset) in the 1851 census living with two servants. In the 1861 census they had moved to Bathwick, again near Bath, and again with two servants. Susan's sister Eleanor, then a widow for the second time, was living with

them. Susan died before the 1871 census, but at that time Eleanor was still living with Louis and two servants. They had been joined by a niece, Susan Liddall (aged 44) also a widow.

Louis had retired as a Lieutenant General and died in 1874 in Clevedon Somerset.



Agra Fort
Photo taken by Harriet & Robert Tytler 1858
Source: British Library item 531

Chapter 10

ELEANOR EARLE & EDWARD COLERIDGE MATHIAS

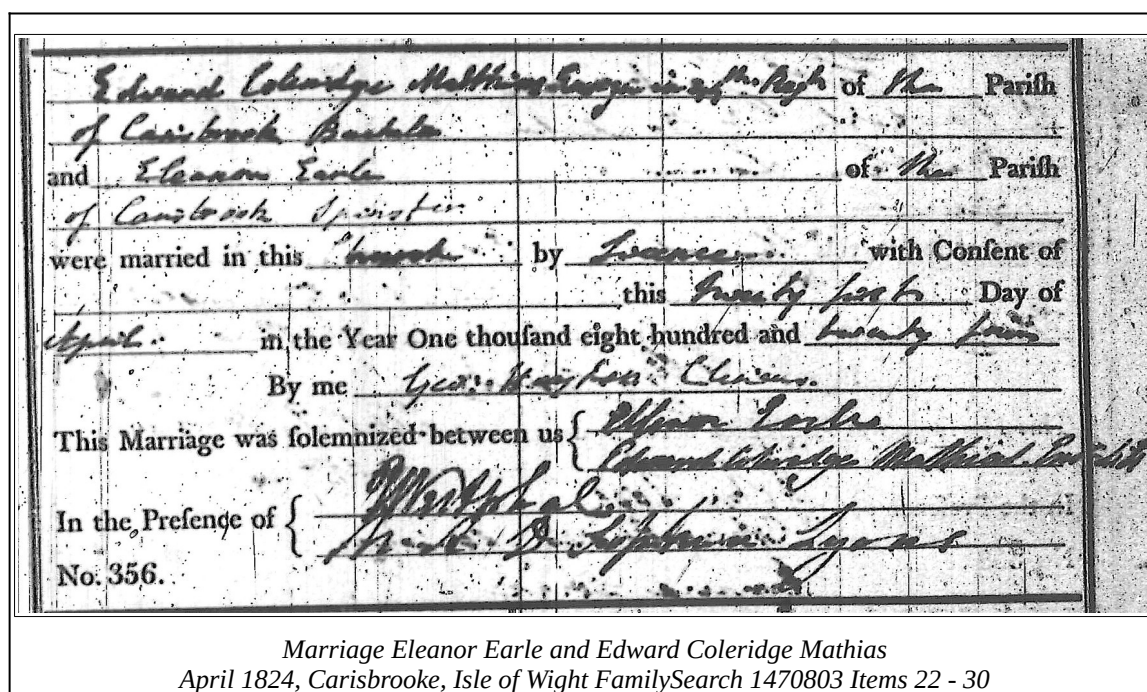
Eleanor was the 6th child of Capt. Solomon Earle and Rose

Eleanor Earle (b. abt1803)	Susan Catherine Mathias (b. 1827)
m. 1824 Edward C. Mathias (1801-1839)	m. 1846 John Liddall (b. abt1819)
m. 1840 Charles Edward Oneill	Edward John Mathias (bp. 1830)
	Ellen Matilda mathias (b. 1830)
	Sophy Margaret Mathias (b. 1830)
	William C. Mathias (b. 1832)
	George Vincent Mathias (b. 1836)

I am unable to find Eleanor's birth record. She married Edward Coleridge Mathias in Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight, about eight months before her father's death in 1824. Eleanor's oldest sister, Elfrida, had married Edward's older brother Gabriel about 11 years previously (see page 35).

Edward was originally from Norwich in England. He was an Ensign with the 44th regiment of the British army (as opposed to the East India Company army). Presumably he was based on the Isle of Wight with the rest of his regiment whilst waiting for a passage out to India. He must have introduced himself to the Earle family and that would have been how they met. The couple went out to India and he rose to the rank of Captain according to the birth record of one of his sons, however, probate paid to Eleanor on his death in 1839 refers to him as a Lieutenant.

Their first two children were born at Ghazepoor, the next three at Cawnpoor, and the last at Fort William. Their third and fourth children were twins. Edward was buried on 13th August 1839 at Landour in India.



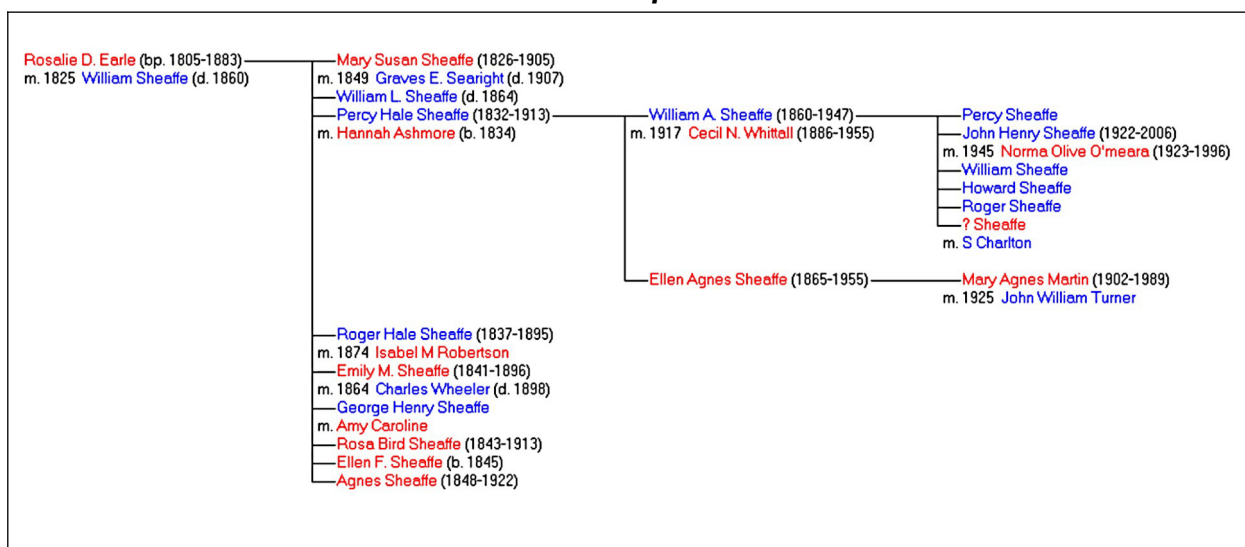
Eleanor married a second time in the following year in Landour Bengal to Major Charles Edward O'Neill of the same regiment. Her sister Susan (chapter 9) was present at the marriage but at that time not married. Eleanor had six children by her first marriage but does not seem to have had any children with Charles. Eleanor was living on the Isle of Jersey when probate was paid to her from Charles' will.



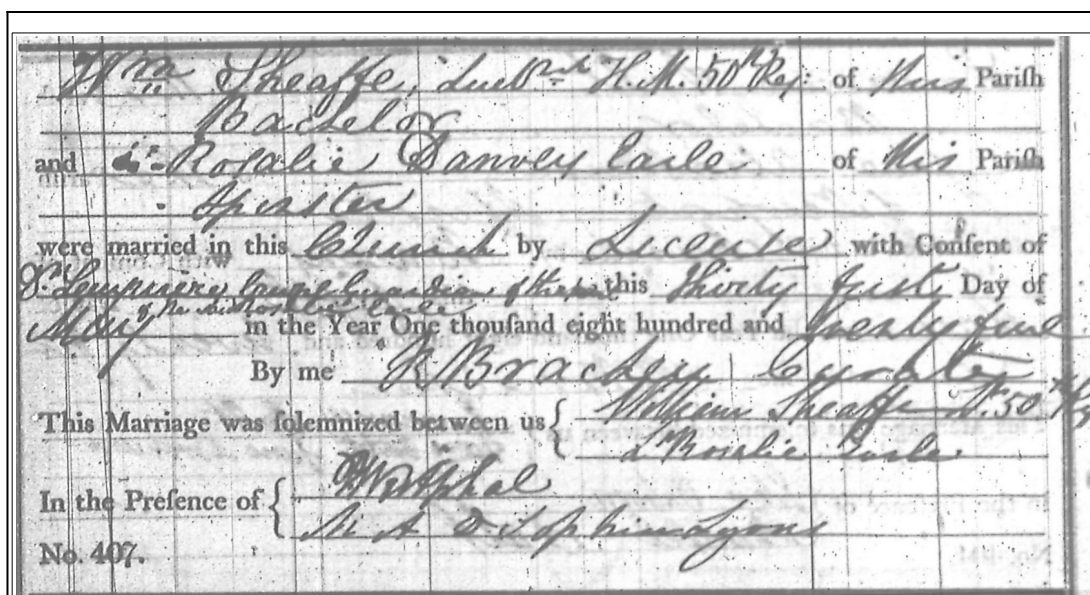
*St. Mary's church, Carisbrooke
Site of the marriage of several of Captain Solomon Earle's daughters and his burial ground
Photo C. Earle*

ROSALIE DANVERS EARLE AND WILLIAM SHEAFFE

Rosalie was the 7th child of Capt. Solomon Earle and Rose



Rosalie was baptised at Newchurch, Isle of Wight in 1805. The church was about 6 miles from the Barracks where her father was based and on the other side of the town of Newport. She married Lieutenant William Sheaffe of the 50th Regiment in 1825 at St Mary's Church, Carisbrooke five months after the death of her father. As Rosalie was under 21 years old she had to have the consent of her guardian, Dr William Lempriere. Dr. William was married to Rosalie's elder sister Marianne. Another member of the Lempriere family (possibly a younger sister of Dr William) had married Rosalie's eldest brother, John Lucas. More information on the Lempriere family is presented in chapter 6.



*Marriage record Rosalie Danvers Earle & Lieut. William Sheaffe
Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight 1824 source: FamilySearch film 1470803 Items 22 - 30*

Stephen Sheaffe has done considerable research into his family and has provided me with the following information about Rosalie's life and children.



Rosalie Danvers Sheaffe née Earle in her later years
Source S. Sheaffe

Rosalie's first two children, Mary Susan (b. 1826) and William Lempriere (b. 1827) were both born on the Isle of Wight. Rosalie was heavily pregnant on an army ship when her third child was due to be born. A family legend is that Percy Hale Sheaffe was born on a ship in Bantry Bay off the south west coast of Ireland on 11 November 1832 but a handwritten baptismal note records Percy's baptism at Portumna on 23 November 1832, a few miles inland from Galway.

In 1833 William received orders to oversee convicts enroute to New South Wales. As an officer he was entitled to have his family accompany him. Rosalie and her new baby were aboard the *Surrey* when it left London on 11 April 1834. After a long and dangerous journey it arrived in Port Jackson, Sydney on the 18th August and the *Australian Newspaper* recorded the arrival the following day as

follows:

'Yesterday the ship Surrey, 401 tons, Captain Charles Kemp, from London whence she sailed the 11 April, with 260 male prisoners: The guard consisted of Lieutenant Sheaffe, Ensign Knowles, 50th Regiment Surgeon Superintendent Mr John Smith: Passengers Mrs and Miss Sheaffe, 7 women and 10 children'.

In this newspaper notice, Rosalie was described as Mrs Sheaffe and the Miss Sheaffe was Susannah, William's sister. It must have been heart-breaking for Rosalie as it is believed the two eldest children Mary Susan and William Lempriere did not make the journey at that time. There is evidence that they remained in England and were reared by William's uncle and surrogate father Major General Sir Roger Hale Sheaffe in Edinburgh.

In the first years after arrival it is not known where the family lived but in April 1836 William was appointed to oversee a convict road gang constructing Mitchell Road near Wollongong so they probably lived in that neighbourhood. One year later, in April 1837, their fourth child, Roger, was born in Wollongong. Later that year Rosalie, her two small children and sister-in-law Susannah accompanied William to his new posting on Norfolk Island. The surviving church attendance records note William, Rosalie and Susannah regularly attending church services on Norfolk Island during this period. Just over one year later, they resumed residence back in Wollongong.

In this male dominated environment where the number of men greatly exceeded that of women, sisters-in-law, Rosalie and Susannah, must have developed a close and enduring relationship. They were together on the long journey to Australia and Susannah followed and lived with Rosalie and William on Norfolk Island. Rosalie must have felt enormous excitement when in 1838 Susannah married William Perry, the son of a wealthy and prominent Irish landholder and the Earl of Limmerick's heir. Sadness quickly followed when Susannah died in 1841 just 22 days after giving birth to her second child. Both mother and daughter were buried in the Island cemetery.

William retired from the Army in 1841 and purchased a dairy farm at Dapto, New South Wales, where they resided until his death on 17 December 1860. William and Rosalie took an active interest in community affairs and were regular worshippers at St Luke's Anglican

Church. William was one of the first trustees of the church, a founding trustee of the Illawarra Show Society and member of the local Lodge.

Rosalie's eldest son William Lempriere grew up and was educated by his Great Uncle Roger Hale Sheaffe. he joined the army and served in the Crimean War during the late 1850s. After a short posting in India to quell the Sepoy Mutiny, he arrived in Australia in sufficient time to get to know his father before his death in 1860. William Lempriere as the eldest son executed his father's death certificate. Rosalie must have been excited to rekindle a relationship with her adult son but this was only short-lived as he died a few years later at Bowen, Queensland in 1863 aged 35 years.

The last five of her nine children were born in Wollongong: Emily Margaret born 1839, George Henry born 1841, Rosa Bird born 1843, Ellen Frederick born 1845 and Agnes born 1847. Their family home, located on Sheaffe Street, Dapto was large but modest and still stands today. It is on the local Heritage Register.

After William's death Rosalie with her three youngest daughters travelled to England never to return to Australia. Family records indicate that Rosalie found Australian life too primitive, however, if her first daughter Mary Susan never came to Australia, returning to England to reacquaint herself with her adult daughter may have been a deciding factor. Rosalie died at Addlestone, Chertsey, in Surrey in 1883.

The sons, Percy, Roger and George married and there are still descendants in Australia. The eldest daughter, Mary Susan, married Graves Seawright in England but it is not known if she came to Australia. Emily Margaret married Charles Wheeler and it is known that she died in Switzerland in 1896. The three youngest daughters remained unmarried in England.

The Surgeons report of the voyage of the Surry to Australia in 1934 is available online (Willetts, 2019).

I have DNA matches to this family. See chapter 14.



*Rosalie and William's house
Sheaffe St, Dapto, New South Wales
(photo: S. Sheaffe)*



The Arrival of the Convict Ship Surry in Sydney Harbour
Engraving by Geoffrey C Ingleton 1908-1998
National Library of Australia ID 6153054
accessed online <https://trove.nla.gov.au/version/22529967> June 2019

Chapter 12

EMILY SUSAN EARLE AND FREDERICK RANIE

Emily was the 8th child of Capt. Solomon Earle and Rose

Emily was born in Newport, Isle of Wight. When she was born is unclear. In the 1851 census she gave her age as 39; in the 1871 census as 61 years old; in the 1881 census as 71 years old. These dates suggest a birth year of 1809/10. She died in 1899 and her estimated age was written as 86 years old (but more likely to have been about 89).

Emily was baptised in 1818 in Greystead, Northumberland. Her parents took her up there from London so that she could be baptised by her uncle, George Rennell, who had been appointed as Rector of the newly built church after an eighteen-year career with the Royal Navy. Unfortunately, there is no mention of her birthdate in the available FindMyPast transcriptions or in the Bishop's transcript of her baptism. It is worth noting here that her niece, Harriet Tytler, mentioned in her memoirs that Emily had told her that she had married when 16 years old to spite another suitor (suggesting a birth year 1807).

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <u>Greystead</u> in the County of <u>Northumberland</u> in the Year <u>1818</u> .						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1818. Sunday 23 ^d of August No. 1	Walter John	John	and Frederick	Inhabited Haugh	Farmer	Charles Charlton Rector of St. Shields Officiating Minister
1818. Sunday 23 ^d of August No. 2	William John	William	and Gillis	Middle Ebb.	Farmer	Charles Charlton Rector of St. Shields Officiating Minister
1818. Sunday 23 ^d of August No. 3	Emily Susan	Solomon	and Rose Earle	Hackney Middle Ebb.	Captain in East India Company's Service	George Rennell Rector of Greystead

Baptism of Emily Susan Earle
Greystead, Northumberland 1818 Bishops Transcript
Source (FMP)

More information about George Rennell is given in the section on the Rennell family in Chapter 3 and in Appendix 3.

Susan married Frederick James Ranie in April 1823 at Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight. On the registration it is stated she was a minor and had the consent of her father. Her sister Ellen (Eleanor) was a witness of the marriage. The dates suggest that she was actually younger than the 16 years that she told Harriet (although legal with parental consent which had been given). Perhaps she was embarrassed about marrying so young.

Frederic James Ranie of the Parish of Wootton Bassett and Emily Susan Earle of this Parish were married in this Church by L. Ranie with Consent of the father of Emily Earle minor this twenty fifth Day of April in the Year One thousand eight hundred and twenty three

By me W. J. Ranie Curate.

This Marriage was solemnized between us { Frederic James Ranie and Emily Susan Earle

In the Presence of { W. J. Ranie and Ellen Earle

No. 317.

Marriage of Emily Susan Earle and Frederic James Rainie Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight.
Source: FamilySearch 1823 14708032 items 22-30

Frederick was from Woolwich. Harriet mentions that prior to her and her sister staying with them Frederick had been stationed for some years in the Ionian Islands of Greece with the British Army. In census records (1841 & 1851) his occupation was given as Barrack Master with the Ordinance Division.

Harriet also writes in her memoirs that the couple had six children, however, they all died at birth. In the 1841 census, the Ranie family was living in Birmingham and Harriet (11 yo) and Emily Jane (5 yo) were staying with them whilst at school in England. Harriet had quite a bit to say in her book about staying with the couple whilst at school, not appearing to enjoy the experience, at least initially. Frederick died in 1859.

Emily's second marriage was to bachelor, Samuel de La Grange Williams from Edgbaston, Warwickshire. He gave his occupation as Esquire. On the 1871 census he was about 12 years younger than Emily's declared age and in the occupation column is written "no occupation". Emily died in 1899. On her death her shares in the Great Western Railway company were transferred to her husband Samuel and her nephew John March Earle.

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
44	March 31	Samuel de la Grange Williams	Full	Bachelor	Esquire	Edgbaston Warwick	Samuel de la Grange Williams	Esquire
		Emily Susan Ranie	Full	Widow		New Bond St.	Solomon Earle	Captain

Married in the: Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by Licence or after _____ by me, _____

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Samuel de la Grange Williams and Emily Susan Ranie in the Presence of us, James Ridgway and James Payne

Marriage of Emily Susan Ranie & Samuel de la Grange Williams 1866
Hanover Square, Middlesex Source: FindMyPast

Mary Anne Earl

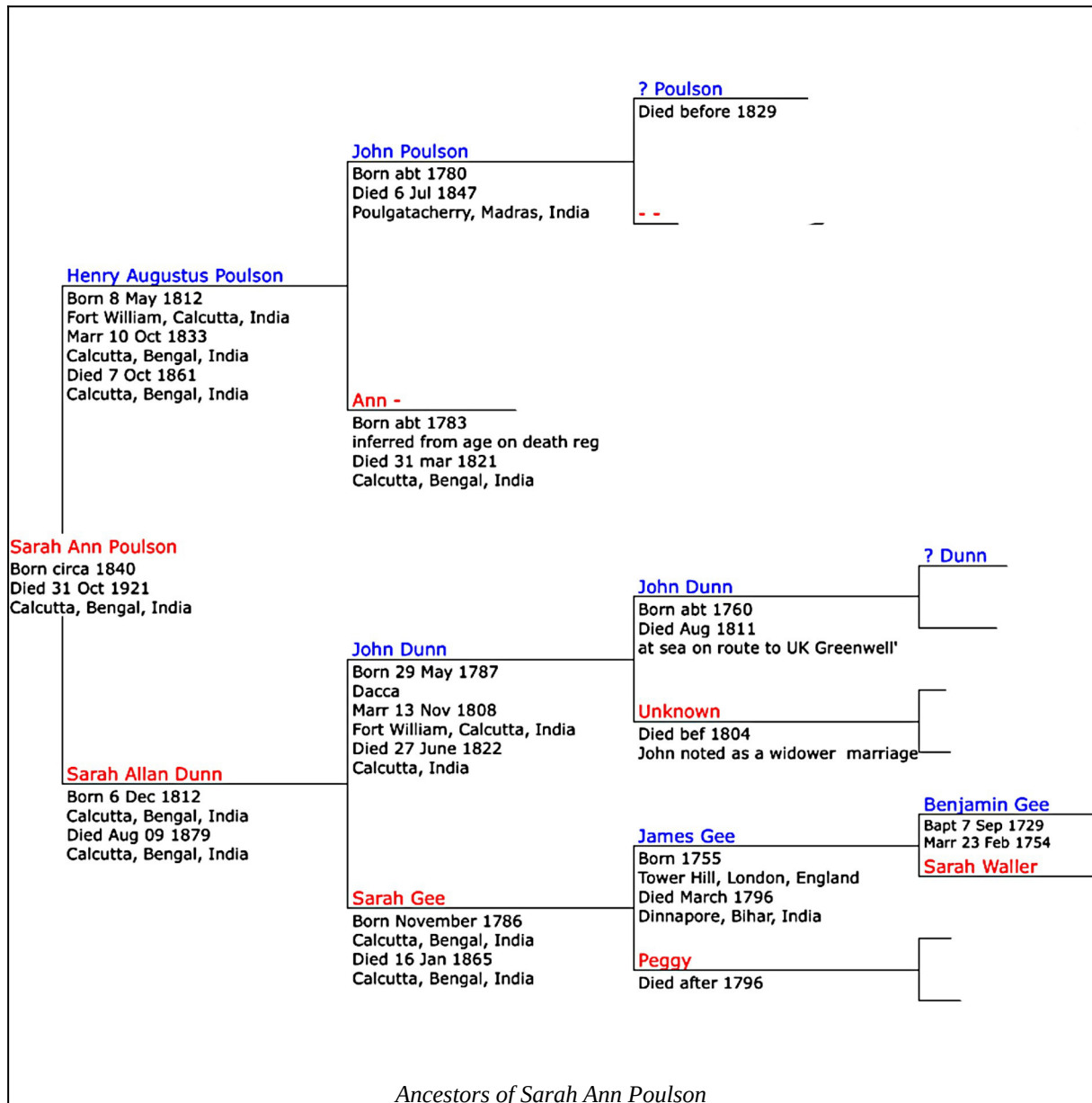
Family Search transcriptions show that an infant child of this name was buried at Carisbrooke in 1816. It is possible that this was the 10th and last child of Captain Solomon Earle and Rose. I have found no other information on her. Rose would have been 51 years old and Solomon 66 years old when she was born.

Chapter 13

POULSON GEE & DUNN FAMILIES

*These families are the ancestors of Sarah Ann Poulson
(the 3rd wife of Edward William Earle)*

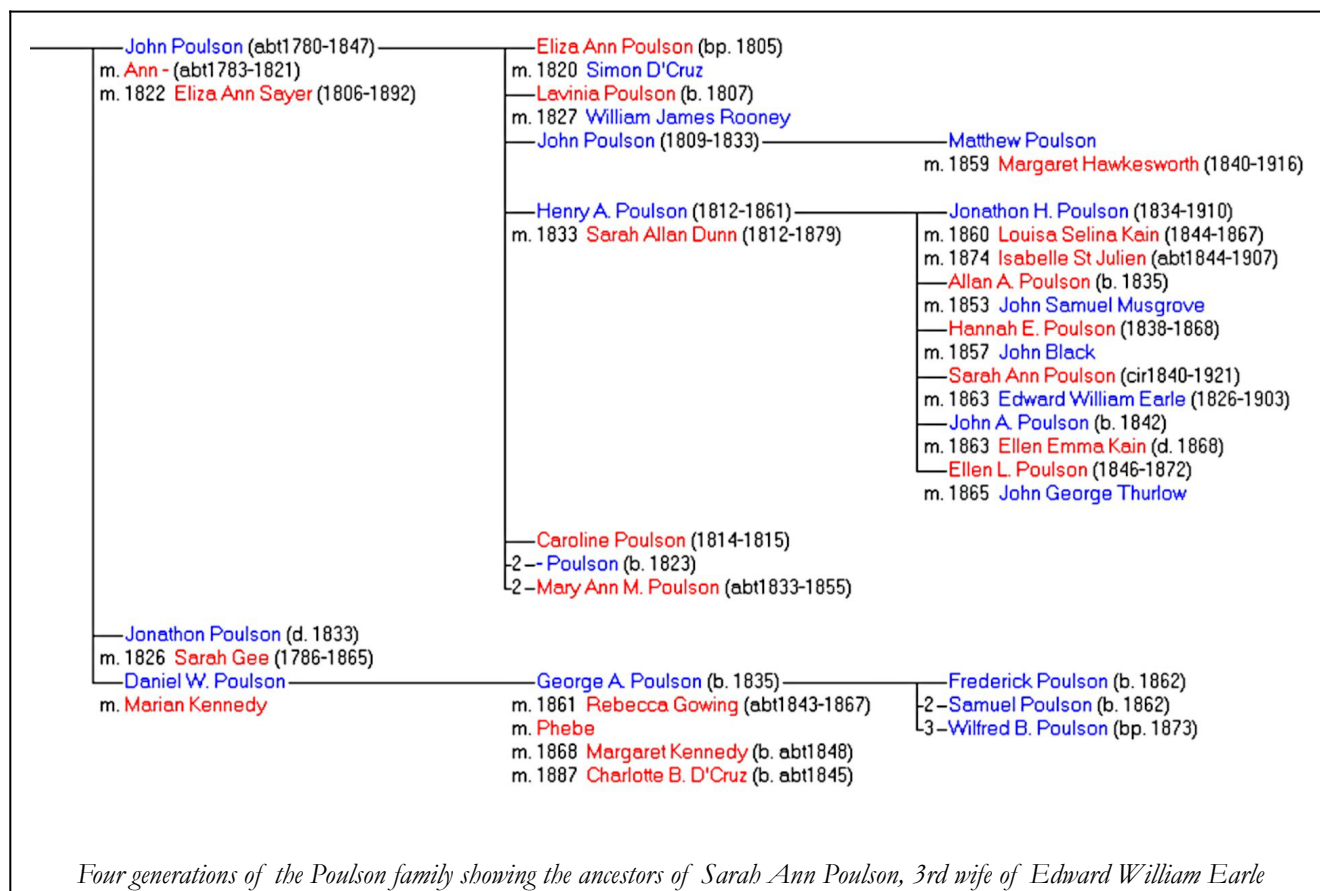
This chapter varies significantly from the main theme of this book which set out to record the lives of the Earle families that lived in India and their descendants. Here I have written about the ancestors of Sarah Ann Poulson who was the third wife of Edward William Earle. These are the ancestors of all of Edward and Sarah's descendants and so will be of particular interest to many who read this is book. These families came to India in the mid-eighteenth century from the United Kingdom. Whether they came out as tradesmen, military recruits, seamen or independent adventurers has yet to be determined. The relationship between the families is, in places, complex. I have done my best to untangle and explain how they came together in the following sections. The families lived mainly in Calcutta and the indigo growing regions of Bengal.





Towns relevant to the Poulson, Dunn & Gee families (modified Google maps)

The Poulson Family



Early records concerning the arrival and presence of the Poulson family in India are incomplete and difficult to find. Furthermore, recording of the names as John, Jonathon or just 'J' add to the potential for confusion. I have been examining largely unindexed but digitised images of records held at the British Library and digitised by FamilySearch under group IOR O/5/25-31 *Index and notes, Europeans 1766-1829*. In these listings there are incomplete annual summaries of Europeans that are not employed by the East India Company or the British government. The first mention that I have found (in this group) of the Poulson name is in the listing for 1807 where both Jonathon and John are mentioned. Both are recorded as having come from England in 1805. Jonathon gave his current employment as a mariner and John as a side-waiter. There is nothing recorded in the section with respect to authority to reside in India for either of them. There is also a shipping announcement in the Bombay Courier (16 February 1805) that the Brig *Sultan* with Captain Poulson arrived in Madras from Calcutta.

In the 'list of Europeans' for the following year, Jonathon is recorded as an indigo planter in Nundenpore (but stating that he arrived in India in 1801) and John was recorded as working as a clerk for Williams & co (but stating that he arrived in 1796).

<i>Names</i>	<i>Place of Residence</i>	<i>Native Country</i>	<i>Employment</i>	<i>year of arrival in India</i>	<i>Authority for residing in India</i>	<i>Date of Authority for residing in India</i>	<i>Date of local license or authority for residing in District of</i>
527 Jonathon Poulson	Figgys Lane	England	Mariner	1805			
539 John Poulson	Coinnamatten Lane		Little Side waiter	1805			

Edited copy of record 'List of Europeans in India 1807' - First mentions of the Poulson name

Entries in later years that I have found record Jonathon as J. Poulson, an Indigo planter in the same location as Jonathon earlier and that he arrived in India 1805, however, John Poulson is recorded as having arrived in 1796/7 and working for the same merchant company. In 1812, John is recorded as having no employment.

I have found no mention of Daniel Poulson in the lists so far, however, they are incomplete as are most records for that time and they seem to focus mainly on areas around Calcutta. No other occurrences of the Poulson name has been found. Additionally, it seems that only adult males are included in the annual lists.

344 LIST OF BRITISH INHABITANTS, &c.

Potterton, —, H. C Dispensary
Potts, George Alexander, Trader, Calcutta
Poulson, John, Indigo-planter, Nundunpore, Nuddeah, 1796
Poulson, D. W. Indigo Manufacturer, Jessore
Poulson, Jonathon, Indigo-planter Kishnagur
Poulson, John, Mariner. Bark George
Powell, D. W. Assistant. Indigo works, Belsund, Tirhoot

Poulson name in 'The Bengal Directory', 1824, List British of Inhabitants

Jonathon Poulson

Grand uncle of the 3rd wife of Edward William Earle

In 1807 Jonathon was recorded as being a mariner from England who first arrived in India in 1805 (IOR 05/25-31). The same set of records show that from 1809 to at least 1812 he was recorded as an Indigo planter in Nundunpore. In 1816 he was recorded as a superintendent of another planter's indigo factories. Jonathon was listed as a planter in Kishnagur, Bengal in the 1829 Bengal Directory.

Jonathon seems to have become an indigo planter after some years as a mariner. Whereas the records suggest John became a mariner after working for some years as a merchant's assistant. More research to determine how they both travelled to India may well reveal that in fact they both had seagoing careers before settling in India.

In Jonathon's will (Poulson, 1833) he mentioned his nephew Henry Augustus Poulson, his wife Sarah, and his brother John Poulson. Jonathon had two houses in Calcutta which he left to his wife Sarah (widow of John Dunn, maiden name Gee). Upon her death the houses were to pass to his nephew Henry Augustus Poulson. Jonathon also gave his half share of the Nundunpore Indigo works to Henry. This was on the understanding that he looked after the interests of his sister (i.e. Henry's sister referred to as Mrs Rooney), for as long as she remained a widow. The will is difficult to read in places, but there was other money which his Executors were to invest in Company (i.e. HEIC) papers and the dividends to be paid to his wife. On her death the principal was to be paid equally to Henry Augustus Poulson, John Poulson and Lavinia Rooney.

A third condition of his will was that the bond he had for his brother John Poulson was not to be put in force as he cancelled the bond, and it was never to be demanded. I suspect that

Jonathon had at least partly funded the purchase of brother John's first ship (or in fact it was Jonathon's ship) and that was the money (bond) that did not need to be repaid. The fourth condition of his will was that his watch and chain be given to Henry Augustus.

I have not come across any children from Jonathon's marriage to Sarah Dunn and from the tone of the will it is probable that he had none from this or any other marriage. Sarah was a widow at the time of her marriage to Jonathon. The Dunn family of Sarah's first marriage and her own family (Gee) are described in following sections.

John Poulson

Grandfather of the 3rd wife of Edward William Earle

Jonathon had a brother, John. John Poulson (Sarah Ann Poulson's grandfather) was born in England. His burial record suggests that he was born in 1780. He arrived in India in either 1805 with his brother or in 1796 as mentioned in the previous paragraph. He was initially employed as a side waiter and later as an assistant to Williams & Company (1809), and then to Williams and Hohler (1811). He lived in Bow Bazaar which is now in central Calcutta. In 1812 'no employment' was recorded for him in the list of Europeans in Calcutta for that year. At present, I suspect that he had been a mariner before arriving in India and went back full time to this occupation around 1812. Further research may prove otherwise. In the shipping news in newspapers the first time a Captain John Poulson is mentioned is in 1817 when he is commanding the 91 ton Brig *Cyclops*. An earlier (1805) reference to a Captain Poulson could refer to either of the brothers.

I have tabulated on a following page what information that I have found with respect to the ships John (or Captain) Poulson owned and the voyages that he made. He travelled as far as Singapore, Mauritius (Isle de France) and China as well as many voyages around the Indian and Sri Lankan Coast (Galle, Trincomallee, Colombo). It is fortunate that many shipping movements were also reported in English newspapers at that time.

There were five children baptised in Calcutta between 1805 and 1814 where the father's name was given as John and the mother's name was Ann. Ann is described as John's wife on the baptism of their first child in July of that year. This suggests that if he came to India in that year she most probably came with him from England. It is only for the fourth child, Henry Augustus Poulson (b 1812) where the occupation of his father was given and there he was stated to be a Captain commanding the Barque *George* (a Barque is a three masted ship).

Ann's death was reported in the *Bombay Gazette* (2 May 1821) as:

'On the 30th March after a lingering illness of a month Mrs Ann Poulson, aged 38 years, leaving behind her four children to lament their irreparable loss'.

On Ann's burial record in 1821 it was also noted that she was the wife of Captain Poulson of the Country Service. The Country Service was the fleet of privately owned merchant ships that plied the ports of India and neighbouring countries, sometimes going as far as China. They often functioned as feeder ships delivering goods to the major ports for onward shipping to Europe.

Just over a year after Ann died, John married Eliza Ann Sayer in the Madras Presidency. She had one child that I can find record of but all I know is that it was a male and born in 1823. It looks like John named his last recorded ship *Eliza Ann* after his new wife.

In John's will (Poulson, 1847) he refers to an adopted daughter Mary Ann Maria Poulson but there is no mention of his other children who were living in the Bengal Presidency although at least Henry Augustus was still alive.

I suspect that after Ann's death the four surviving children; Eliza Ann, Lavinia, John and Henry Augustus were put under the care of their uncle Jonathon (then unmarried) whilst their father, John, continued with his maritime career.



*The Duyfken, A replica of a 17th century sailing ship (110 tonnes)
photo: Perth, W.A. 2019*

Ship	Year		Voyages	Reference	
Sultan (Brig)	1805	Feb 16	Arrived Madras from Calcutta	Bombay Courier	
		Apr 10	Arrived madras from Visagapatam		
Cyclops listed in EIR&D 1819 – Brig 91 tons built Calcutta. Owner & Captain John Poulson					
Cyclops	1817	Feb 6	Arrived Isle de France (Mauritius) from Calcutta	Lloyds List	
		Feb 22	Depart Isle de France	Bombay Courier	
		Mar 6	Depart Madras		
		May13	Depart Calcutta		
George listed in EIR&D 1823 Barque 120 tons built Kidderpore Owner & Captain John Poulson					
George	1827	Feb 15	Calcutta to Masulipatam	Morning Post	
			Mutiny on return from Masulipatam to Madras Captain Poulson & wife safe	The Atlas	
Eliza Ann	1828	Feb 28	For Southern ports	Public ledger & daily Advertiser	
	1829	Feb 9	At Colombo (Ceylon) from Isle de France		
		Feb 11	Sailed Colombo for Malabar Coast		
		Feb 19	At Madras from Malabar Coast		
	1831	May 15	At Madras from Cochin		Asiatic Journal
	1832	Aug 8	At Singapore, to Malacca and Penang		
		Sep13	At Hoogly (Calcutta) from Penang	Asiatic Journal	
	1833	Jan 11	At Colombo from Cochin	Public Ledger & Daily Advertiser	
		Jan 15	From Colombo to Malabar Coast		
	1834	Jul 17	At Singapore from Galle	Morning Advertiser	
	1837	Jul 26	At Bombay from Singapore	Morning Post	
		Sep 6	Dep Bombay from China	Naval & Military Gazette	
	1839	Feb 14	Cochin to Colombo	Morning Advertiser	
	1841	Aug 5	Penang	Morning Post	
		Sep 16	Pondicherry		
		Sep 17	Madras		
		Sep 25	At Madras from Pondicherry	Lloyd's List	
	1842	Feb 27	Depart Cochin	Morning Post	
		Mar 16	Depart Trincomallee		
		Mar 18	At Madras from		
		Sep	Unable to upload Cocoa nuts for 10 days on Carnatic due to Cholera ashgore		
		1843	Oct 24	Ceylon from Madras	Shipping and Mechantile Gazette
			Nov 3	Ceylon to Cochin	
	Aug 2		Singapore to Penang	Public Ledger & Daily Advertiser	
	Oct 22	At Singapore from Rangoon			
	1844	Nov 8	At Galle from Pondicherry	Shipping and Mechantile Gazette	
		Nov 9	From Galle to Malabar Coast		

Voyages of Captain Poulson as reported in Indian and British papers (incomplete)

One of the most challenging of his voyages must have been the one aboard *The George*. First reported in the Bengal Hurkaru (February 1827) and then copied by the English newspaper *The Atlas* (8 July 1827). As far as I can determine a ship of 100 tons would be about 20 m. stem to stern and have a maximum beam of about 6 m. It would require a crew

of about 20 to handle the sails and cargo. There would be a cabin for the captain in the stern and the crew would just sleep on the deck.

After the mutiny and the wrecking of the *George*, John named his next ship *Eliza Ann* after his second wife. Eliza seemed to have accompanied him on many of his trips. It sounds quite glamorous but I expect she was kept busy on some tasks even though she is on occasion listed with other passengers in the shipping news. He continued to sail on the *Eliza Ann* for at least another sixteen years.

His Will and the associated Administrations are quite detailed. John left all his possessions to his wife Eliza Ann, this included three houses in the Nilgiri Hills and the one they were living in at the time in Paulgautcherry (near Coimbatore, Kerala). He entered a clause that upon his wife's death a sum of 10,000 rupees should be paid to their adopted daughter after marriage but that her future husband would have no call on the money and that after her death the money should be divided equally between her children. In fact their adopted daughter, Mary Ann, died when she was about 22 years old and so her mother outlived her by a considerable number of years. Eliza Ann died in an Asylum in Ootacamund, Nilgiri Hills.

Attached to Eliza Ann's will (Poulson, 1897) is a document stating that the will was not administered and after her death the Administrator General of Madras undertook this duty in 1897 (5 years after her death). The final value of the estate was about Rs7,500. Several properties seem to have been sold for low value (sums agreed to on compromise after the event). The final page of the Administration papers assigns one half share of the money to the Estate of Eliza Ann Poulson and the other half share to his (unnamed) next of kin. I can't understand this, as she was her next of kin.

BENGAL HURKARU

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1827.

Yesterday's Shipping Report announced the arrival of two brigs: the *Louisa* from Leith, 6th August, and the *Cape of Good Hope*, 16th Nov.; and the *Waterloo* from Vizagapatam.

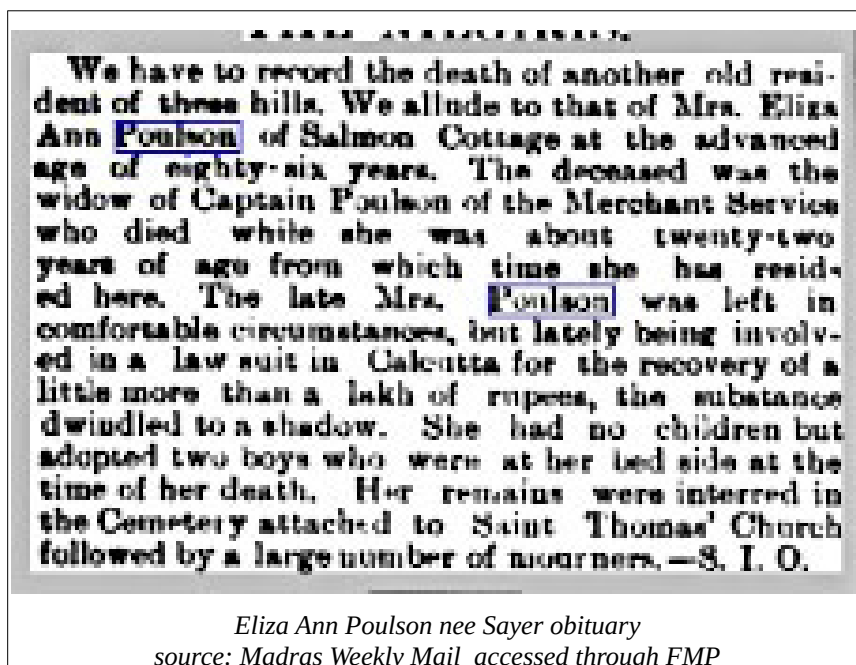
The departure from Calcutta of a Ship of the same name as one of the arrivals, the *Louisa*, is also announced in the same Report.

We understand that the Bark *George* of this port was wrecked on the 20th ultimo, on Catapalam Point. The particulars of this unfortunate circumstance as they have been submitted to us, exhibit a melancholy picture of the depravity of native crews. The Commander of the Vessel having completed her repairs at Coringa, procured a crew composed of the natives of that place and of Vizagapatam and proceeded on the 3rd to Masulipatam where he landed the Honorable Company's Military Stores. On the 13th he sailed for Madras, and on the 15th while he was in the act of taking the meridian altitude at noon, the Crew rose up and having first pinioned him, lashed him to the main rigging. The chief officer they tied to the bower cable, and treated even Mrs. Poulson in a similar manner. Having carried their brutality to such an extent, they threatened the sufferers with death, and putting the vessel before the wind stood in for the land; after which, they got into the cabin and helped themselves at first to liquor, until they were quite intoxicated, and then plundered every thing that was valuable. At six o'clock she struck, on which they left her, some on rafts and others swimming for the shore which was not far off. Mrs. Poulson having been previously unbound was enabled to release the others, though not without extreme difficulty arising from the quantity of rope which had been coiled round them. As soon as the sufferers were able, they fired signals of distress, and burnt blue lights, but no assistance was rendered them until the morning, when they found the ship on Catapalam point. She held out as long as she could, but the surges beat heavily, and they were obliged to leave her a complete wreck.

The Commander of the vessel is inclined to think that a knowledge of the lenity which a former crew, who absconded after receiving two month's advance of wages, experienced at the hands of the authorities there, induced the present to act in the manner they did, fearless as they seemed to be of all consequences which might attend their atrocious conduct.

While we regret the occurrence of an event of such a distressing nature, we are happy to be able to state that the Sub-Collector of the district and the Commanding Officer of Ongole rendered the unhappy sufferers every assistance they possibly could.

Eliza's obituary was published in the Madras Weekly Mail (31 March 1892). It seems as though in her latter years a lot of her inheritance was spent on a legal matter.



Children of John Poulson and his descendants

Eliza Ann Poulson

1st child of John Poulson & his first wife Ann

Eliza was baptised at Fort William, Calcutta in 1805. She married Simon D'Cruz, a Trader, at St John's Cathedral in Calcutta when she had just turned 15 years old. No further records for children or their deaths have been found.

Lavinia Poulson

2nd child of John Poulson & his first wife Ann

Lavinia was baptised in 1807 at Fort William. She married William James Rooney of the East India Company Marine Department when she was 20 years old. She is mentioned by this name and her being a widow in her uncle Jonathon's will (1833). I have seen no record of any children. William died in 1832, but I have found no record of death for Lavinia.

John Poulson

3rd child of John Poulson & his first wife Ann

John (b. 1809) died when he was 24 years old in Calcutta. On the death record his occupation was recorded as 'Gentleman'. A marriage record for him has not been found, but there was a Matthew Poulson who married in 1859 who was the son of a John Poulson.

Henry Augustus Poulson

4th child of John Poulson & his first wife Ann

Henry was born in Calcutta in 1812. On his baptism record it was stated that his father, John, was in command of the Barque *George*. He was educated at the Parental Academic Institution in Calcutta. Henry inherited a share of the Nundunpore Indigo works from his uncle, Jonathon Poulson. I suspect that Henry learned the Indigo trade from his uncle Jonathon working and living with him after his mother had died and whilst his father was away sailing his ship. He married Sarah Allan Dunn from another Indigo Planter family in 1833 and they had at least six children (q.v.). In Henry's will he left Rs3,000 to his wife Sarah and Rs1,500 each to his nephews William and George Thurlow, to be paid to them when they reached 21 years old. He left the remainder of his estate to Frederick Elphinstone, an Indigo Planter, and George John Thurlow, a lighthouse Superintendent on the Hoogly river. The instruction was that they act as trustees and pay the dividends of the estate to his wife. Upon her death they were to divide the assets equally between his sons and daughters. In his will he refers to two houses in Calcutta left by his uncle Jonathon to his wife Sarah and that they would pass to Henry's wife upon his aunt's death. He did not refer to any of his children by name in his will. Henry died in 1861 and Sarah died 18 years later.



Grave marker for Henry Augustus Poulson, Hannah Elizabeth Black, Helen Lavinia Thurlow
Chowringhee burial ground, Calcutta
Photo: R Adams

Caroline Poulson

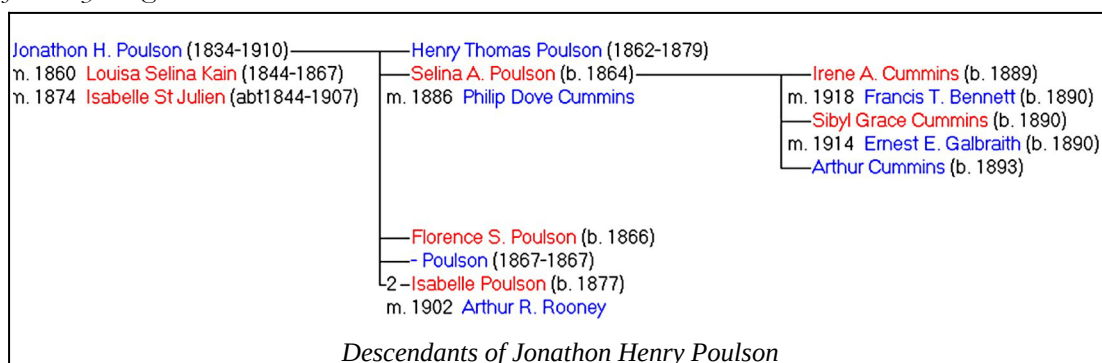
5th child of John Poulson & his first wife Ann

Caroline was born in Calcutta in 1814 and died when four months old.

Children of Henry Augustus Poulson

Jonathon Henry Poulson

1st child of Henry Augustus Poulson & Sarah



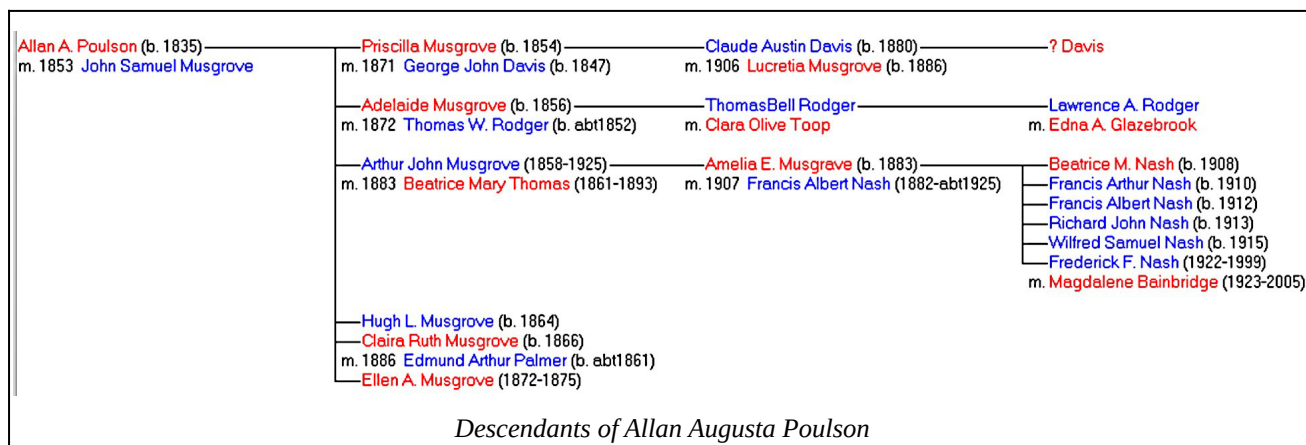
Born in 1834, Jonathon attended Mr Montague's academy in Calcutta. He did well in his subjects and got several mentions in newspaper reports. In Bengali, for example, he was second only to a native boy. He married Louisa Selina Kain in 1860. They had four children between 1862 and 1867. At the time of marriage, Jonathon was an Assistant in the Revenue Surveyor General's Office. In 1874 as a widower with three surviving children he married

Isabelle St Julien. His occupation then was stated to be an indigo planter. Jonathon and Isabelle had at least one child, Isabelle, who married engineer, Arthur Richard Rooney. Arthur's father had been a gunner according to his birth record.

Allan Augusta Poulson

2nd child of Henry Augustus Poulson & Sarah

Born in 1835 in Nundempore Allan was named after R.W. Allan who was an executor of her grandfather's will (John Dunn). She married John Samuel Hackett Musgrave, a Draughtsman, in 1853 in Calcutta. They had six children. Some of their descendants are known to now live in UK and Australia.



I have DNA matches to this fgfamily. See chapter 14.

Hannah Elizabeth Poulson

3rd child of Henry Augustus Poulson & Sarah

Born 1838 she married John Black, an accountant with a railway company in Calcutta in 1857. They had at least three children; John Henry (b 1858), Edwin James (b 1860) and Oliver Edward (b. 1862)

Hannah died in 1868 and was buried in the family tomb in the Lower Circular Road Cemetery with her father Henry and her younger sister Ellen.

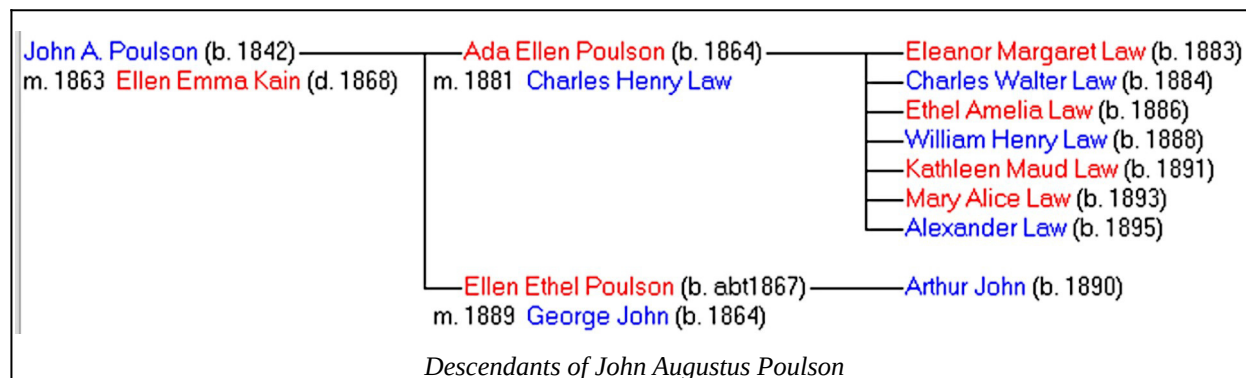
Sarah Ann Poulson

4th child of Henry Augustus Poulson & Sarah

Sarah was born 1840 and in 1863 married Edward William Earle. Details of their family and descendants were included in the previous chapter.

John Augustus Poulson

5th child of Henry Augustus Poulson & Sarah



John was born in 1842 and baptised a year later in Calcutta. He married Ellen Emma Kain in 1863. He was also an Indigo Planter. He was involved, together with his brother Jonathon, in a legal case with respect to the rent being paid for land belonging to their father, Henry, just after he had died. The case was found in favour of the Poulson's. Eighteen years later John was declared insolvent by a court in Calcutta. A John Poulson (61 years old) died in 1901 of heart disease whilst an inmate of an almshouse. This could be him.

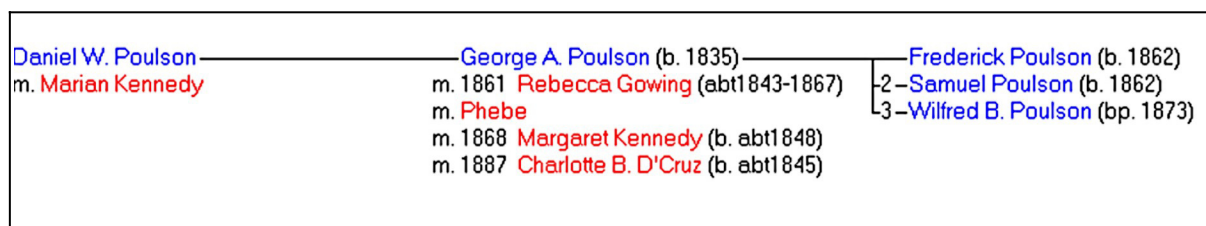
Ellen Lavinia Poulson

6th child of Henry Augustus Poulson & Sarah

Born 1846. In 1865 she married John George Petit Thurlow. John was with the Pilot Service on the Hooghly River. His father, George John Thurlow, had been a mariner when he married his wife own wife, Lavinia Davis, in 1837, however, in 1858 when he was named as an executor in Henry Augustus Poulson's will he had become a lighthouse superintendant.

Daniel William Poulson

Presumed to be a Grand uncle of the 3rd wife of Edward William Earle

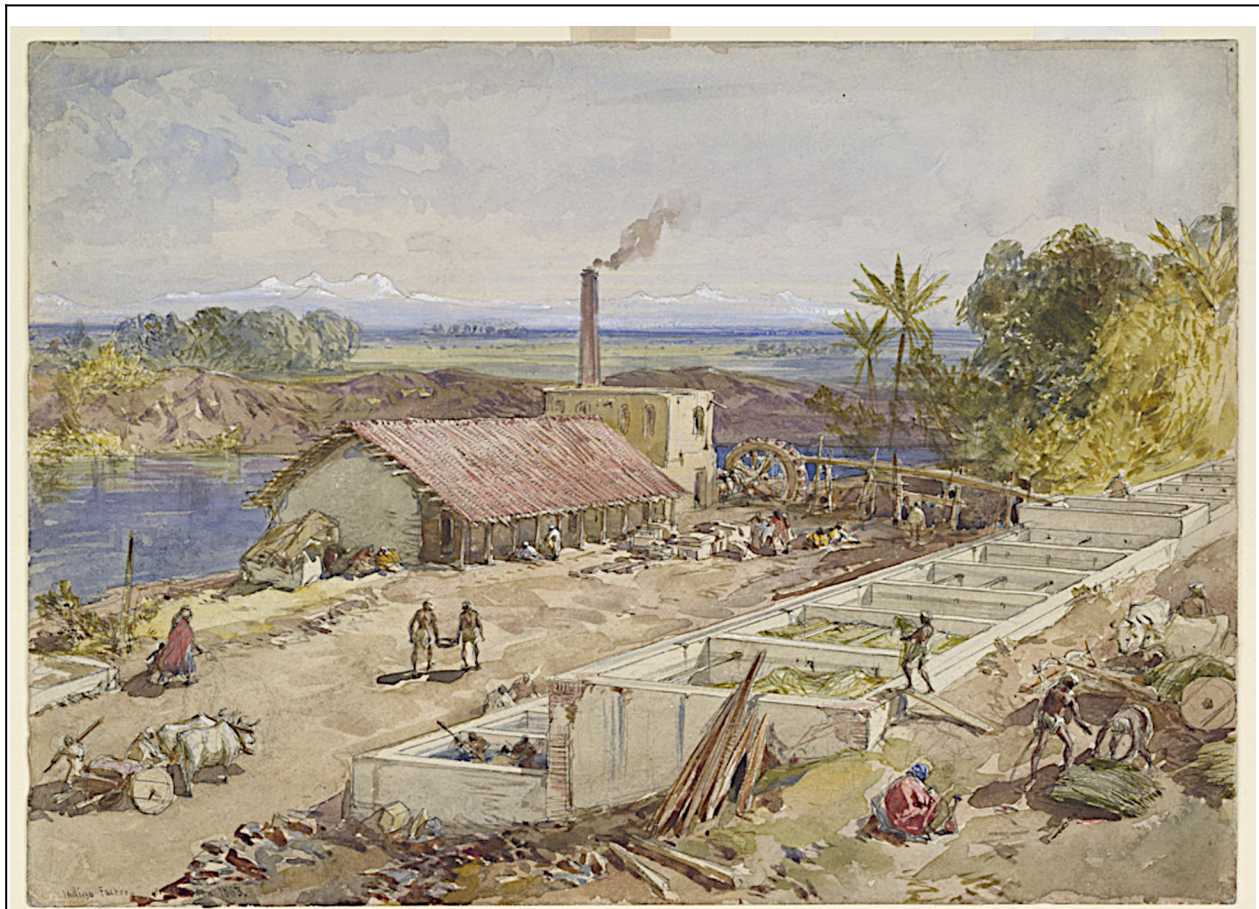


In the 1824 Bengal Directory a D.W. Poulson is recorded as an Indigo manufacturer in Jessore. In the absence of any more records I have assumed that he was the Daniel William Poulson named in records, and that he was a brother of Jonathon and John. I have yet to find more records that indicate when and how Daniel arrived in India.

George Andrew Poulson is recorded as being the son of Daniel and Marian Poulson born in 1835. George was baptised in Howrah in 1868. This was seven years after his recorded marriage to Rebecca Gowing (but named in the ecclesiastical return as George Albert not George Andrew). Their son, Frederick Simeon Gowing Poulson was born and baptised in 1862. Records show that Rebecca Poulson died in 1867. George married Margaret Kennedy in Howrah, 1868 (the same day as his baptism) and a son, Wilfred Blessingham Poulson, was born in 1873. There was a boy, Samuel Poulson, recorded in the returns as the child of

George Poulson and Phebe, but his birth and baptism dates are the same as those recorded for Frederick Simeon Gowing Poulson. This must be an error in the completion of the ecclesiastical returns.

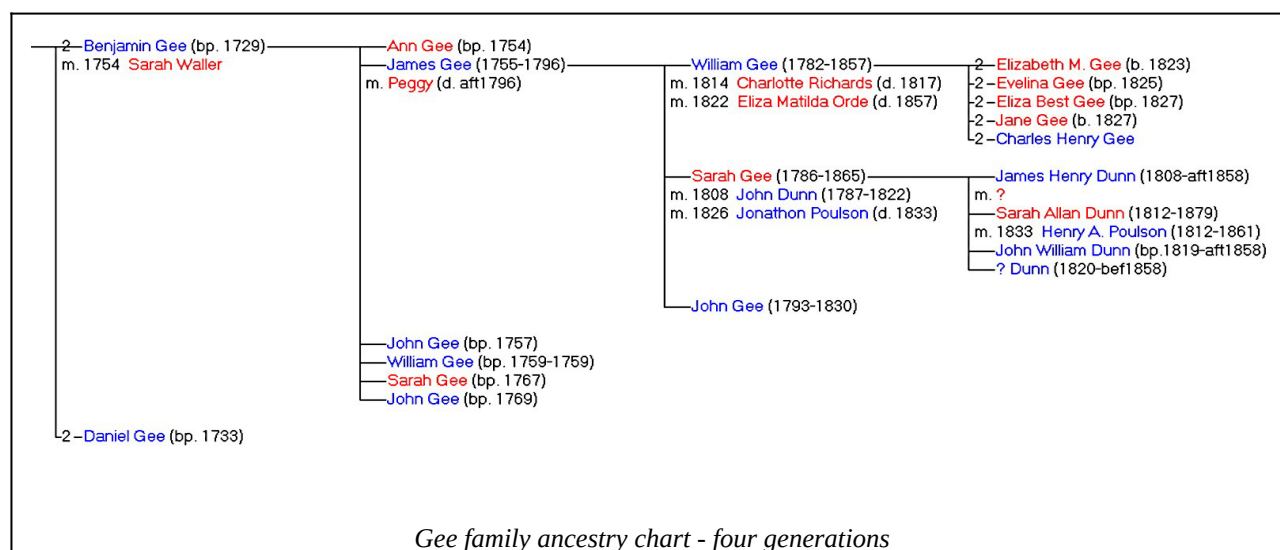
Marriage and baptism records show that George worked for the East Indian Railway Co. in and around Calcutta in various roles.



An Indigo Factory Bengal, 1863 by William Simpson, British Library WD 1017

The Gee Family

James Gee went to India in the late 18th century. His granddaughter, Sarah, married Henry Augustus Poulson



Benjamin Gee

Benjamin Gee was the great-grandfather of Sarah Allan Dunn, the wife of Henry Augustus Poulson

Benjamin was a master tinsmith in the City of London. His father John (not shown on chart) was a haberdasher of St Botolph parish in Aldgate. John was a widower when he married Benjamin's mother, Isabella Browness, in 1725. Benjamin was apprenticed to Cambulanus May on 1 November 1744 for a premium of £20. It is likely that Benjamin married twice between 1752 and 1754. His marriage to Sarah was the last marriage to be conducted at St Mary at the Hill parish in the City of London before the new marriage act was legislated. He took up his trade in Tower Hill, became a Master tin-plate worker and over the years took on several apprentices himself including his eldest son, James.

James Gee

James Gee was the grandfather of Sarah Allan Dunn, the wife of Henry Augustus Poulson

James Gee was born in 1755 in Tower Hill, London to parents Benjamin and Sarah (née Waller). James was the 2nd of four children that have been found. On 1 August 1769 he started an apprenticeship with his father. He referred to his parents Benjamin and Sarah, in his will as living in The Hermitage in the City of London and described his father as a tin man. He bequeathed them 25 pounds per annum to be paid for the rest of their lives.

James is recorded in both the 1795 and 1798 editions of *The Bengal Register* as being a shopkeeper in Dinapore. After the entry is written *Prince William* which suggests that he sailed to India on a ship with that name. There is no such HEIC ship listed and so I think the true name of the ship may have been *Prince of Wales*. I have yet to determine whether he was part of the ships crew, an HEIC or British army recruit or travelling in some other capacity. A note on a British Library index card has the year 1793 on it and *Dinapore- Europe – shopkeeper - 12 years*. This implies that he had been a shopkeeper in Dinapore since 1781 but whether he arrived in India that year (at 26 years old) or, more likely, that he had taken discharge from the HEIC army after a term of service and chosen to stay on in India is unclear. In those days civilians travelling to India had to pay a bond to HEIC which was quite high, and I expect beyond the means of a future shopkeeper.

James made out his will on 2nd March 1796 shortly before he died (Gee, 1796-1798). It took 2 years to for the accounts to be sorted, partly because some of his business was in

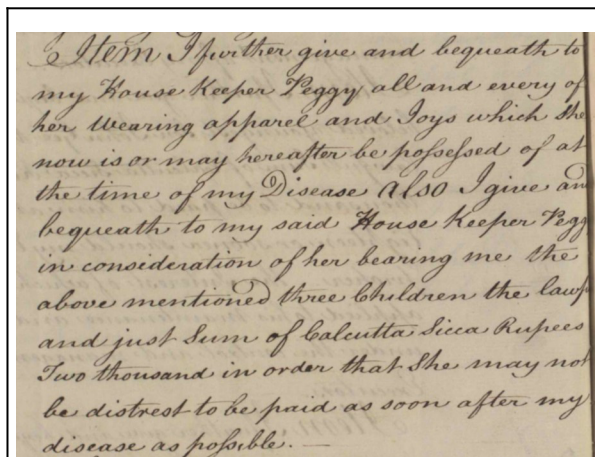
partnership with another person. Amongst the named executors was a John Dunn who I believe to be the father of the John Dunn who his daughter Sarah married.

In his will he named his three children, William (referred to as his oldest son), Sarah and John. He left 10,000 Rupees to each of them to be paid when they attained 18 years of age. At the time of his death the children were about 14, 10 and 3 years old respectively.

As well as his parents he also named his housekeeper, Peggy who was left personal possessions and 2,000 Rupees

‘.....In consideration of her bearing me the above mentioned three children’.

Any remaining assets from the settlement of his estate were to be shared equally between the three children.

A photograph of a handwritten document, likely a will, written in cursive ink on aged paper. The text is an extract from the will of James Gee, detailing bequests to his housekeeper Peggy and his three children. The handwriting is clear but shows signs of age and being a personal document. The text is enclosed in a rectangular border.

Extract from will of James Gee about his 'housekeeper' Peggy

William Gee

William was the eldest son of James Gee and older brother of Sarah Gee

William was baptised in 1789. It is not clear from the available transcript where this occurred, other than it was in the Bengal Presidency. His father is identified as a shopkeeper in the document. The following information is thought to apply to William.

William Gee married in Calcutta (1814) to a Miss Charlotte Richards who died 3 years later on route to Calcutta when she was travelling for her health. William Gee, merchant, widower of Cawnpore, married Miss Eliza Orde in 1822. Four daughters Elizabeth, Evelina, Eliza and Jane and a son Charles were born of the marriage. The same William then married again in Cawnpore in 1836 to Rose Greenway. Both William and Rose were killed during the mutiny of 1857. A tombstone was erected in their memory by their children. His name is also recorded on the monument comemorating the event (see page 120). His age recorded at death is compatible with him being William, the oldest son of James Gee. A

Sarah Gee

Sarah was the daughter of James Gee and eventually married Jonathon Poulson

Sarah married John Dunn junior, the son of John Dunn senior who had been an executor of her father's will in Calcutta. John junior was recorded as an Indigo planter living in Calcutta. Witnesses of the marriage were John Dunn senior and Henry Jacobi, the husband of John junior's sister, Hannah, who married earlier that year. The couple had 4 children, James, Sarah, John and another son between 1808 and 1820 all baptised in Calcutta. James, Sarah Allan and John are both mentioned in their mother's will that was written in 1858, however, I have found no record of a marriage or death for either of them.

John Dunn junior died in 1822 when he was 36 years old. Their children ranged in age from 3 to 14 years old. Four years later Sarah married another indigo planter, bachelor Jonathon Poulson. By this time I believe that John Poulson's children, including Henry Augustus Poulson, were under the care of their uncle, Jonathon, and so it would seem that Sarah Allan Dunn and Henry Augustus Poulson would have grown up together. They were both about 14 years old.

Sarah Allan Dunn married Henry Augustus Poulson in Calcutta in 1833 when she was 20 years old. Henry was 21 years old and recorded as an indigo planter from Kishnaghur which is about 100km north of Calcutta.

John was the youngest son of James Gee and younger brother of Sarah Gee

The Dunn Family

John Dunn (abt1760-1811)
 m. Unknown (d. bef1804)
 m. 1804 Elizabeth Fenwicke (bp.1779-af1812)

Mary Dunn (bef1794- ?)
 John Dunn (1787-1822)
 m. 1808 Sarah Gee (1786-1865)

James Henry Dunn (1808-af1858)
 m. ?
 Sarah Allan Dunn (1812-1879)
 m. 1833 Henry A. Poulson (1812-1861)

John William Dunn (bp.1819-af1858)
 ? Dunn (1820-bef1858)

Johnathon H. Poulson (1834-1910)
 m. 1860 Louisa Selina Kain (1844-1867)
 m. 1874 Isabelle St Julien (abt1844-1907)
 Allen A. Poulson (b. 1835)
 m. 1853 John Samuel Musgrove
 Hannah E. Poulson (1838-1868)
 m. 1857 John Black
 Sarah Ann Poulson (cir1840-1921)
 m. 1863 Edward William Earle (1826-1903)
 John A. Poulson (b. 1842)
 m. 1863 Ellen Emma Kain (d. 1868)
 Ellen L. Poulson (1846-1872)
 m. 1865 John George Thurlow (b. 1843)

Hannah Dunn (b. 1791)
 m. 1808 John Henry Jacobi (b. 1785)

Henry Jacobi (b. 1809)
 m. 1834 Harriet Bowman
 m. 1845 Matilda Diana Phelan (b. abt1826)
 Frederick E. Jacobi (b. 1811)
 m. 1838 Sophia Powers (b. 1819)
 m. 1853 Charlotte E. Carlow

Charlotte M. Jacobi (1846-1900)
 m. 1863 James A Hogan (1840-1904)
 Hannah Maria Jacobi (1843-1844)

James Dunn (b. 1793)
 2-William C. Dunn (b. 1809)
 m. 1832 Rosaline Hughes

Rosalin E. Dunn (b. 1832)
 William C. Dunn (b. 1834)
 Henry Hubert Dunn (b. 1843)

Robert Dunn (d. Bef1812)
 James Dunn (d. bef1812)

Dunn family ancestry chart – five generations

John Dunn was the father in law of Sarah Gee

The East India Kalendar (EIK) or Asiatic Register of 1797–1799 records just one John Dunn being an inhabitant of Dacca and having arrived on the *Julia Maria* in 1787. There are

various other entries in Calendars and registers over the years for a John Dunn that is in all probability him as no one else with that name that could be confused with him has been found. They are tabulated below.

Year	Publication	entry
1792	EIK	Dacca; <i>Julia Maria</i> , 1787
1797-99	EIK	Dacca; <i>Julia Maria</i> , 1787
1801	EIK	Europe shopkeeper, Bankipoor
1804	EIRD	Serampore
1805	IOR 05/25-31	Trader, Boilokkonah
1809	IOR 05/25-31	Repository Keeper, Durrumtollah
1810	EIRD	Stablekeeper

In 1804, 44-year-old John married 25-year-old spinster Elizabeth Hannah Fenwick in Calcutta. Her name was transcribed incorrectly on the marriage extract as Henwick. John was recorded as a widower. They subsequently had one child, William Cuthbert (born 1809). On William's baptism John's occupation was recorded as 'horse jockey'.

In his will he named brothers Robert and James both deceased and formerly of Limehouse, Middlesex and Blackfriars, London respectively. He left 20,000 rupees to be shared between their (unnamed) children as well as a share of the ownership of two indigo factories around Jessore. A daughter, Mary, is mentioned in John's will as 'already amply provided for' but I can find no baptism or marriage record that is likely to be hers. She is most probably either the result of a first partnership or of the same parentage as John junior and Hannah, his natural children named in the will. A younger child James (born 1793, baptised 1794) was not named in his will and so is presumed to have died before 1812. The children (except for Mary) were all baptised in Patna in 1794 at the same time. The record states that, at the time of the baptisms, John was a cabinetmaker in Patna.

In John's will, William (then only about 2 years old), was left Rs50,000 in trust to pay for his education and the balance with interest to be paid to him when attaining 21 years of age.

John made his will out on 28th January 1811. A codicil was made to his will on 21st June 1811 when aboard the ship *Thomas Grenwell* on route to England. He died whilst aboard the ship. He bequeathed £105 to the daughter of John and Ann Reynolds who had been born dumb according to a letter that had been given him on the ship. The copy of the paperwork associated with his will is complex and hard to read. There was a delay in proving the will as two of the named executors renounced the role and another was absent, possibly deceased. Elizabeth wrote to the court seeking authority to administer the estate. It is not clear from the paperwork whether she was granted the role. The accounting of the administration is lengthy but appears to total up to less than Rs50,000 which is not in line with the amounts that he bequeathed.

John Dunn (junior)

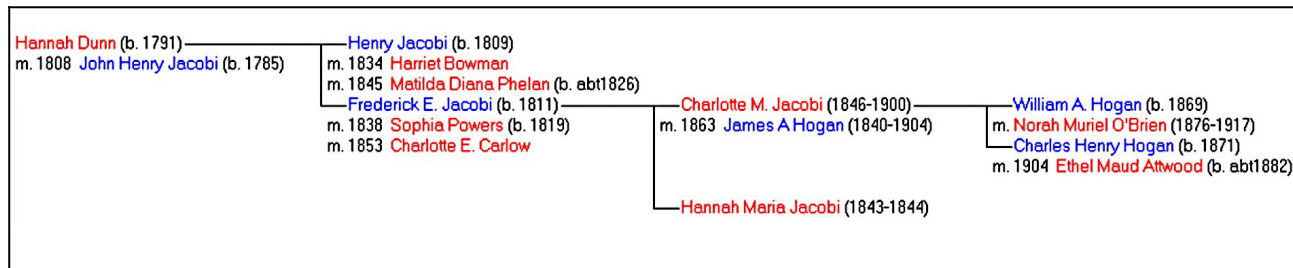
John Dunn was the husband of Sarah Gee and the father of the wife of Henry Augustus Poulson

John Dunn junior was an Indigo Planter. It seems that he became a planter using a bond of Rs7,000 mentioned in the administration of his father's will. He married Sarah and they had at least three children. Their oldest child Sarah Allan married Henry Augustus Poulson. John died in 1825 when he was 36 years old and was buried in Fort William (the origins of Calcutta). He made his will out in 1815 and he was likely ill then as he mentioned the 1814 crop of indigo that was with his agents. He recovered well enough to survive a further seven years before the will was presented by Sarah. John named his wife, Sarah; her brother

William Gee and Robert Wilson Allan as his executors. In the will he bequeathed all his estate to be divided equally between his wife and the two children. If Sarah was to marry again the remains of her share was to be divided equally between the children. As it turned out Sarah did marry again four years later to Jonathon Poulson and her daughter Sarah Allan Dunn married Jonathon's nephew Henry Augustus Poulson.

Hannah Dunn

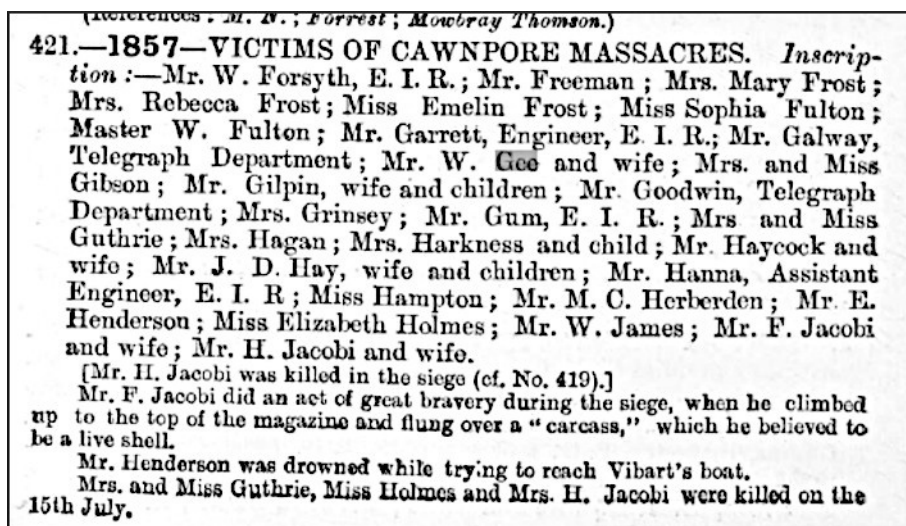
Hannah was the only daughter of John Dunn (senior)



Hannah was born and baptised in Patna as were her brothers John and James. When she was seventeen years old, she married 23-year-old John Henry Jacobi, a watchmaker, in Calcutta. John was the 2nd oldest of six children born to Gold and Silversmith John Ludwig Jacobi and Mary. John senior was recorded as arriving in India in 1778 on *The Shrewsbury*.

They had two sons that I know of both baptised in Calcutta. Henry followed in his father's footsteps and became a watch and clockmaker in Calcutta but later moved to Cawnpore where he was twice married. Frederick also married twice in Cawnpore where he was a coach and cabinetmaker. One daughter, Charlotte, survived to adulthood and married assistant apothecary, James Hogan, in Calcutta. Some of their descendants currently live in Australia. It is likely that Henry and Frederick are the H. Jacobi and F. Jacobi mentioned on the monument in Cawnpore erected after the massacre.

I have DNA links to this family. See chapter 14.



*Inscription on a tomb commemorating the 1857 massacre in Cawnpore
Names include W. Gee, F. Jacobi, H. Jacobi and wives.*

*Source: List of Inscriptions on Tombs and Monuments of Historical Interest
by E. Blunt pub. 1911 Accessed in Archive.org March 2024*

The indigo plant is a leguminous shrub that can grow up to 2 metres tall. In the days before synthetic dyes it was valued as a source of a deep blue dye and had been known of for many centuries. Cultivation and processing of indigo was first introduced to India by a Frenchman in 1777.

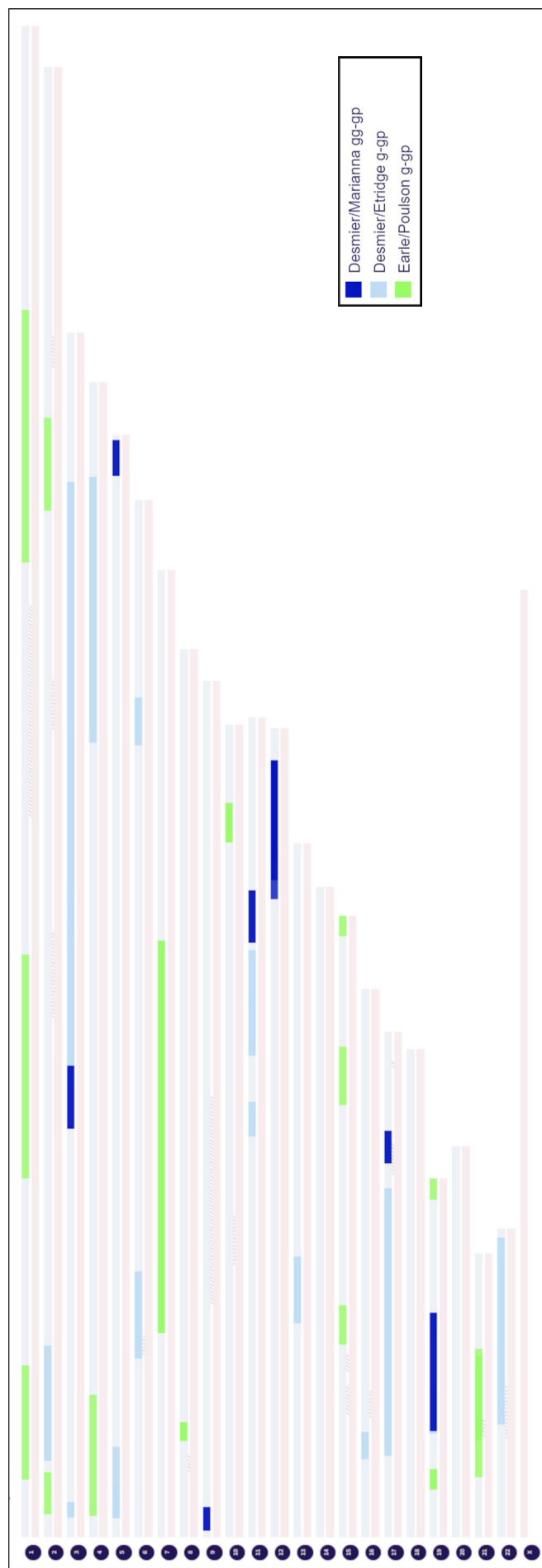
To extract the dye from the plant, after harvest the plants are soaked in large vats of water where they ferment. The extracted liquid is then decanted into another (lower) vat and a sediment is allowed settle. The top liquid is then decanted off and the remaining sludge is collected. Further processing involves boiling and filtration to further concentrate the product so that it can be formed into cakes that are allowed to air dry further before being ready for sale.

European settlers (planters) built indigo processing factories and with the help of local landowners (Zamindars) encouraged the local tenant cultivators (ryots) to grow indigo as a cash crop rather than their usual subsistence crops. By 1830 the number of indigo factories in Bengal was more than 1000. The ryots were being forced to grow more and more indigo by the Zamindars (who received a commission from the planters) but they were being paid an inadequate return for their crops. This was compounded by the fact that the ryots no longer had crops they could trade with neighbours for other types of crops to feed their livestock and families. In 1859 the ryots in several indigo growing regions revolted against the planters damaging the factories. The following year British formed an indigo commission and two years later passed an Act of parliament aimed at ending the repressive practices in the indigo industry.

Reference: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indigo_revolt accessed February 2024



A farmer with a bundle of Indigofera plants to send in for processing [Bala Natrajan/Al Jazeera]



Several of the subscription companies provide a chromosome map showing the segments of each chromosome that you have inherited from each of your matches. These can be combined to show how different relatives may have inherited the same or part of the same DNA segment. I have included my own DNA map that shows all of my DNA confirmed matches with the Earle family. There only a few matches that I have data for as most testers only have their results in the Ancestry database and have not uploaded their raw test results to the MyHeritage, Gedmatch or FTDNA databases.

For each chromosome pale blue indicate my paternal inheritance

Plotted using DNA Painter (<https://dnainter.com/>)

Chapter 14

DNA CONFIRMATION OF SOME FAMILY LINES

Introduction

This is a greatly simplified summary about using DNA test results in genealogy. For a more accurate and comprehensive explanation I recommend reading the following reference book Bettinger, B.T. The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy, 2019 ISBN:9781440300578

DNA genealogical tests can be used to confirm biological relationships with other people by comparing the DNA of two or more individuals. An autosomal DNA test is now considered to be an essential tool to use in family history research. Whilst the test results will not directly give you the names of your ancestors, by comparing the results of your test analysis with those of others people it can indicate that you share a common ancestor. This can lead to you looking at other traditional record sources that you may not have examined in order to put a name to the common ancestor. An example of this is that I was able to find the ancestry of my maternal great-grandmother whose father immigrated to USA after his partner died following the birth of my great-grandmother who was informally adopted in Scotland.

The three main DNA testing companies are Ancestry, My Heritage and FTDNA. When you get your DNA test results back from a testing company the two things that people are first interested in are their ethnicity report and their match list.

My Ethnicity Results

Ancestry has suggested that I have inherited the following ethnicity from my parents.

Region	Maternal %	Paternal %	Me
Scotland	16	19	35
England & NW Europe	34	0	34
Southern India	0	18	18
Sweden & Denmark	0	4	4
Central Asia – South	0	3	3
Ireland	0	3	3
Northern India	0	2	2
Iran/Persia	0	1	1

Focussing on my paternal results, I cannot explain the Scottish or Irish ethnicity. I think that British would be a more appropriate description in my case and that this ethnicity links back many generations. This may also be the case with the Swedish/Danish input, although I wonder if it could come from the Poulson family as that is a Scandinavian name. I can also see that the central Asian and Persian component could come from the Mughal ancestry in northern India.

My Heritage does not distinguish between maternal or paternal inherited ethnicity and uses different regional categories They estimate that I have inherited 20.2% South Asian; 3% Ashkenazi Jewish; 40.5% Irish, Scottish & Welsh and 36.3% North & West European.

FTDNA also does not separate parental ethnicity. They suggest 77% England, Wales & Scotland; 3% Ireland; Greece & Balkans 5% and India 14%.

All of the testing companies emphasise that the ethnicity results are an estimate and they will frequently revise estimates as they get more representative sample data for different regions. They have more confidence in comparing results from different continents than, for example, different regions of Great Britain or European countries. My main conclusion from my results from the different testing companies is that I have significant components of Indian and European ethnicity!

DNA Matches

DNA matches are the result of your DNA data being compared to other people's DNA data to identify matching segments of chromosomes. A match indicates a family relationship between you and the person who you match with. To determine who the most recent common ancestor couple (MRCC) are in each case requires a comparison of your family tree with that of the match and then confirming that both trees are correct by hunting down the supporting documentation such as birth, marriage etc records.

Ancestry is currently by far the largest DNA test company and so people generally get more matches from a test with that company. The other large companies that do DNA tests are My Heritage (MYH) and Family Tree DNA (FTDNA). It is possible to download your raw DNA test result file from Ancestry and upload it to MYH and FTDNA and for a fee (much less than taking a second test with them) access their analysis tools and match list. Raw data can also be uploaded to the Gedmatch site that provide access to some analysis tools free of charge.

Ancestry is helpful in that with a lot of your match list results they indicate if the match in question is related to your father's or mother's ancestors. They also have a tool called Thrulines which compares your family tree with that of each match for you and can suggest how you may be related. It is always necessary to confirm that the suggestion is correct by searching for supporting documents, however. Failure to do this could result in a misinterpretation of the relationship as many online family trees have errors.

A person inherits close to 50% of DNA from each of their parents. It does not follow, however, that the 50% you inherit from your father, for example, is made up of half from your paternal grandmother and half from your paternal grandfather as in each generation the DNA is mixed and recombined. The strength of a DNA match is measured in centimorgans (cM). Each person has about 6,800 centimorgans. Indicative amounts of DNA shared with different level cousins are published widely on the internet and used by the testing companies to give a guide to how people are related to their matches. The website, DNA Painter, gives the range and average value for many relationships. I have reproduced some of them here.

Relationship	Range	Average value
cousin	centimorgans (cM)	
1 st	396 – 1397	866
2 nd	41 – 592	229
3 rd	0 – 234	73
4 th	0 - 139	35
5 th	0 – 117	25

*Likely range of inherited DNA
source: DNA Painter website (01/2024)*

All inherited human DNA can be plotted on a chromosome map. We inherit 23 pairs of chromosomes from our parents. One set of 23 from our mother and the other set from our father. The 23rd or x chromosome determines the sex of the child as you can only inherit an x chromosome from your mother but can inherit either an x or a y chromosome from your father. If you inherit two x chromosomes you are female. If you inherit an x and a y chromosome from your parents you are male. The x chromosome can be used differently to help determine ancestry as a mother can only pass on an x chromosome to a child.

All DNA test companies provide you with an estimate of your ethnicity which they determine by comparing your DNA results with their representative DNA results that they have collected from a large range of locations all over the world. These ethnicity estimates are

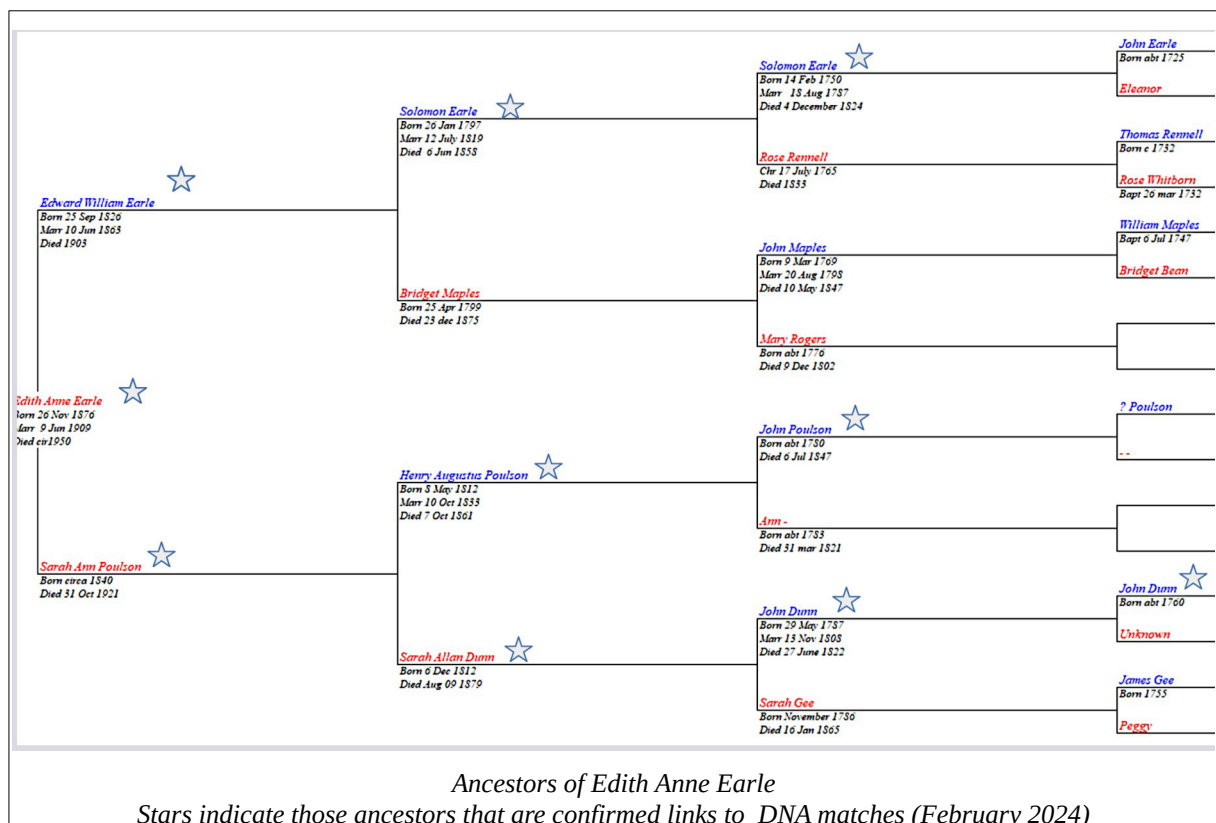
not considered to be anything more than estimates. They are, however, useful in, identifying where some DNA has been inherited from different continents. In our case, for example, predominantly European with some Indian inheritance.

The table below is a summary of my DNA matches on the Earle side of my family so far. I have only included the matches that I have confirmed by finding corresponding vital records (except some for first and second generation birth data in some cases due to privacy reasons as they are still living).

The chart shows the ancestry of my grandmother, Edith Earle and shows (starred) the lines of descendency that are supported by DNA matching.

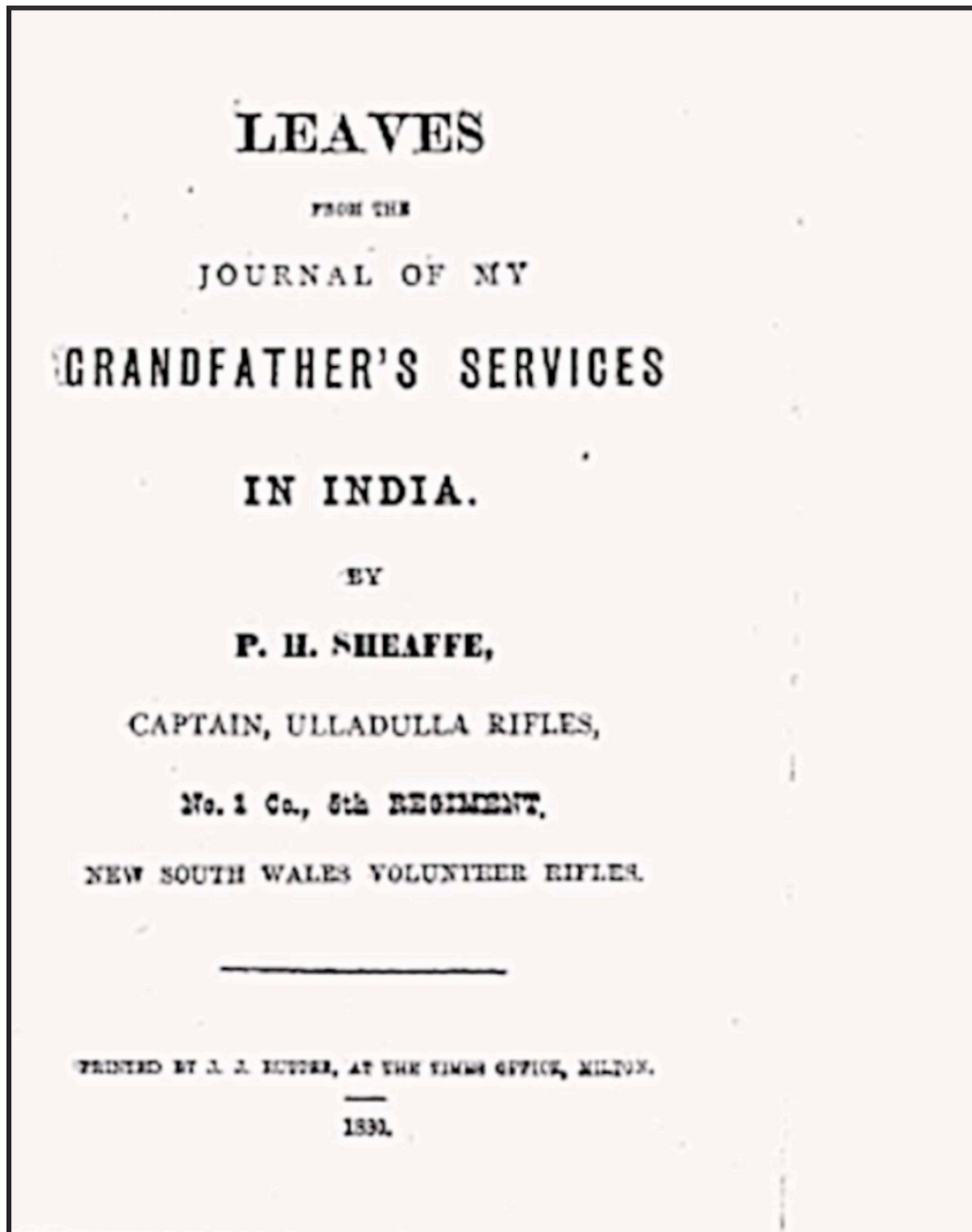
Match Name	atDNA (cM)	My Ancestor	Match's Ancestor	Most Recent Common Ancestor/couple	test Co.	Relationship to me
Desmier, John Andrew	975	Terry Desmier	Eric Desmier	Edith Earle/W Desmier	A	1C
Desmier, Lee Eric Andrew	638	Terry Desmier	Eric Desmier	Edith Earle/W Desmier	A	1C1R
Desmier, Arielle	565	Terry Desmier	Eric Desmier	Edith Earle/W Desmier	A	1C1R
Desmier, Eric William Anakin	277	Terry Desmier	Eric Desmier	Edith Earle/W Desmier	A	1C2R
Earle, Michael Roderick	270	Edith Earle	Ernest W Earle	Edward W Earle/Poulson	A	2C
Nixseaman, Rosita M	166	Edith Earle	Mary Amanda Earle	Edward W Earle/Poulson	A	2C
Kelly, Alan Creighton	148	Edith Earle	Ella Earle	Edward W Earle/Poulson	M	2C1R
Currie, Wendy	100	Edith Earle	Eugene Earle	Edward W Earle/Poulson	A	2C1R
MEADE, Kelvin Bertram Garrett	113	Edith Earle	Gertrude Earle	Edward W Earle/Poulson	A	2C1R
Gosset, Jane	133	Edith Earle	Mary Amanda Earle	Edward W Earle/Poulson	MG	2C1R
Nixseaman, Helen	176	Edith Earle	Mary Amanda Earle	Edward W Earle/Poulson	A	2C1R
Earle, Brice Leeson	32	Edith Earle	Charles ER Earle	Edward W Earle	A	half 2C 1R
Dubois, Elisabeth	10	Edith Earle	Ella Earle	Edward W Earle/Poulson	A	2C2R
McMullen, Cynthia	40	Sarah A Poulson	Allan A Poulson	H A Poulson/S Dunn	A	3C1R
Nash, Julia Melanie Ursula	42	Sarah A Poulson	Allan A Poulson	H A Poulson/S Dunn	A	3C1R
Green, Paul	25	Sarah A Poulson	Allan A Poulson	H A Poulson/S Dunn	A	3C2R
Sheaffe, Margaret	15	Solomon Earle	Rosalie Danvers Earle	Capt. Solomon Earle/Rennell	A	4C
Sheaffe, William	16	Solomon Earle	Rosalie Danvers Earle	Capt. Solomon Earle/Rennell	A	4C
Hogan, Stanley Garrett	29	John Dunn (Jnr)	Hannah Dunn	John Dunn (Snr)/unknown	AFMG	5C
Hogan, Geoffrey	29	John Dunn (Jnr)	Hannah Dunn	John Dunn (Snr)/unknown	A	5C
Sherman, Peter	35.2	John Dunn (Jnr)	Hannah Dunn	John Dunn (Snr)/unknown	M	5C
L'Estrange, Jennifer	24	John Dunn (Jnr)	Hannah Dunn	John Dunn (Snr)/unknown	A	5C1R
L'Estrange, Patricia	47	John Dunn (Jnr)	Hannah Dunn	John Dunn (Snr)/unknown	A	5C1R

Table of confirmed DNA matches with me on my maternal grandmother's (Earle) side of my family



APPENDIX 1

Extract from the Memoirs of Captain Solomon Earle



Background

This book contains the memoirs of Solomon Earle's services in India from the time of his departure from England in 1768 at an age of about 16 until his return in 1786 eighteen years later. The record was collated by his grandson Percy Sheaffe (son of Rosalie Danvers Earle) about 100 years later.

Not a lot is known about his father John and whether or not he had a military career, however, we do know that Solomon's three sons served in the Native Infantry (NI) and three of his daughters married military men who also went to India. Many of their children also became involved with the NI as well. The daughter of Solomon's eldest son (John Lucas Earle) Harriet married Robert Tytler. They were both present at the siege of Delhi in 1857, Harriet being the only English lady in the camp for much of the time. Harriet later wrote her memoirs which were subsequently published in 1986 'An Englishwoman in India; the memoirs of Harriet Tytler 1828-1858' Edited by Anthony Sattin, Oxford University Press.

A year after returning to England Solomon married Rose Rennell and they had at least 11 children. He continued to work within the military in England until his retirement in 1816 when his last position was as Captain and Paymaster to the Company Depot at Chatham Kent. He died in 1824 and is buried at Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight.

Production of this electronic copy.

A photocopy of the original document was given to me by Stephen Sheaffe (Brisbane, Australia) a great grandson of Percy.

I created this electronic copy to aid distribution by email etc. This was done by scanning the photocopy and using OCR software to enter the output into Microsoft Word. I then created the PDF file after editing. The software does a good job but black marks on the original or photocopy can sometimes lead to misinterpretations of letters and punctuation. I have proof read the output and I believe I have corrected all of these errors. I have also corrected the occasional typesetting error such as a letter set upside down or a lower case letter used where there clearly should have been an upper case one.

*Richard Earle (Rick) Desmier (a great great great grandson of Solomon Earle)
13 November 2005*

In 1767 Mr Sullivan, one of the Directors of the E. I. Company, a very particular friend of our family, proposed to send me to India, as a writer in the Honourable Company's Service, but on my arrival in London from Devonshire in October, I found no writers were to be appointed for that season; it was therefore proposed to send me out as a Cadet, or to keep me back another year, it being unfortunately left to my choice, and not knowing the advantage of the Civil Service over the Military, and having taken leave of my friends in the country, I preferred the former, rather than wait another year in England, and was appointed a Cadet on the 29th December.

I sailed from the Downs on the 21st of March 1768, in the "Salisbury," Captain Wynche, for Bengal. We first made Madeira, and took in wine,; we then proceeded to St. Jago, one of the Cape de Verde Islands, where we staid about ten days, taking in water &c., &c. In doubling the Cape of Good Hope, which we saw in the distance, we experienced a tremendous storm. We passed through the Mozambique Channel, and had several views of Madagascar, and anchored for several days at Johannah a delightful little island, situated between the African coast and the North of Madagascar; it is about the size of the Isle of Wight and abounds with cattle, and delicious fruits, such as Pines' Oranges, Bananas &c., all growing spontaneously; the country is hilly and well watered, abounding with game.

After supplying ourselves and the ship's company with necessaries as well as with luxuries, we proceeded on our voyage, and made the Island of Ceylon, and coasting along shore for some time, we saw several of the Madras settlements, and having anchored for a day or two at Masulapatam, our ship continued her voyage, and arrived at our destination at Hoglee on the 21st day of August 1768.

On landing at Calcutta, I heard of the death of my uncle Captain Mills, the senior Captain on the Madras Establishment; also of my cousin Captain Adams of the Engineers, both of whom died a few months prior to my arrival. These were heavy losses to me, but I was young, (15 years) and soon recovered my spirits in the new success around me, receiving great kindness from several gentlemen both in the Civil and Military Service, to whom I had letters from my friends, Mr. Sullivan and Sir Robert Palk. I remained at the Presidency but a few days, when I was ordered to join the first Brigade stationed at Moaghip, and soon after I was appointed an Ensign, and in the beginning of 1769, posted to the 17th Battalion of Sepoys, commanded by Captain Briscoe, and in June 1770, I received my Lieutenant's Commission.

About this time we were ordered on an expedition under Lieut. Colonel Goddard to attack Burrareah, a strong mud Fort about 40 miles to the north of Chuprah. This was the first, and had nearly been the last time I had seen service. Being officer of the day, a part of my duty was to post the sentinels at night as near the ditch as possible, (in the day time they were placed at a greater distance from the fort.) Conceiving I heard a canoe crossing the ditch, and it being very desirable to prevent the escape of the Killadar, I crept on my hands and knees to the brink whence I could just discover the canoe move on the opposite side and at that instant the guard on the Bastion taking the alarm, I perceived 20 or 30 men with their matchlocks lighted by the blue lights; these were thrown directly over me, and I expected a volley about my ears, but as I escaped, I imagine they must have heard the sentinels, and had no idea of my being so near them I need not say I hastened back at a tolerably quick pace the moment their blue lights were extinguished.

The Killadar did not capitulate until a breach was made, and all ready to storm, when we found but little in the fort of any value to the captors, all having been removed before we took possession. After adjusting matters with the Killadar, the detachment returned to Dinapore.

In the Autumn of 1770, the Battalion was ordered to Buxar, there we remained till January 1772, when we were ordered to Benares; we joined the first Brigade of a large body of troops belonging to the Vizier Sugah ul Dowlah, commanded by the Nabob in person. Here we remained a few days only, when we proceeded to Lucknow, into the Rohilcund country, in pursuit of the Mahrattas, and came up with them near Rhamgaut on the bank of the Ganges, and very soon obliged them to cross the river, it being fordable at this point. During the engagement the wheels of one of the gun carriages caught my foot, but the soil being very sandy I escaped without much injury, and after the engagement, was appointed adjutant to six battalions of Sepoys In a few days I was able to do my duty, but was very lame for some weeks.

As the Mahratta army had taken post on the opposite side of the Ganges, and seemed resolved to dispute the passage, Colonel Champion ordered four Battalions of Grenadiers to form the advanced Guard. The whole army followed, and although the river was deep and rapid, the Mahrattas after firing a few shots took to flight, and we formed ourselves dripping wet, on the ground they had quitted, remaining in this sorry plight for some hours. As our troops were obliged to carry their firelocks and cartouch boxes on their heads, and the cannon had been absolutely under water, a most favourable opportunity offered to the enemy to have cut us to pieces, but they must have been thunder struck at the boldness of the attempt, and therefore made off.

What induced the Commander in Chief to have followed the enemy at such a disadvantage was the astonishment of all who were capable of judging properly on the occasion, but for myself I thought the Colonel a second Alexander crossing the Granicus.

After waiting some time in expectation of an attack from the enemy (which no man in his senses could have looked for, after their permitting us to wade the river unmolested) the whole recrossed with the loss of a few drowned and wounded by random shots, and thus ended one of the most ridiculous manoeuvres I ever witnessed.

The army continued in the neighbourhood of Anopshuria a few days to adjust some disputes between the Vizier and the Rohlia Chief, and then returned in two divisions to Suttanpore. To the division commanded by Major Achmuty I was appointed Adjutant and Quartermaster At this time the Brigade built temporary cantonments, and as soon as the rains had subsided, we proceeded to the Presidency and arrived at Chillipore within a few miles of Calcutta in November 1773.

In January 1774, while in command of the forts at Budge Badgee (a few miles below Calcutta,) three French Ships of war with a pilot sloop, anchored during the night opposite the forts, and, as a war with that country was daily expected, I sent a note to the Commodore to desire that he would immediately weigh, and proceed either up the river (the French settlement of Chandernagore being above Calcutta,) or to drop further down, as it was contrary to my instructions to permit ships of any foreign nation to anchor within reach of the fort guns. and receiving a reply to the effect that he would not move his station until the tide was up to enable him to proceed up the river, I immediately ordered every gun to be loaded, and made as formidable an appearance as possible; I then dispatched a note by my sergeant, declaring, if he did not weigh anchor and drop down (as he could not proceed) and place his squadron out of reach of my guns, I would instantly do my utmost to destroy it. This threat had the desired effect, the ships then dropped down the river for about two miles, and when they anchored, I sent intelligence to the Governor General, and the Officer commanding in Fort William, and was honoured with a very flattering reply. On the return of the tide, the French Squadron proceeded up the river to their settlement Chandinagore, the garrison was under arms on their passing Fort William, as it was a very unusual thing for so many ships of war belonging to any foreign nation to be seen in the Hoogly River.

In the same year, 1774, our Battalion was ordered to Midnapore, and employed for several months against a Chief residing in the hills, who had rebelled against the Company. This was the most unpleasant service I was engaged in, we had one third of our Battalion either killed or wounded, and every one who had the misfortune to fall into the hands of these wretches, was sure to suffer a cruel death. The jungles were so thick that we could not see the enemy till we felt the effects of their arrows or matchlocks. On the day we entered the enemy's country, I had charge of the rear guard, consisting of a Subedar, two Jamedars, and forty Sepoys.

Every precaution had been taken to secure the Bazaars, baggage &c., by sending out flanking parties, notwithstanding the jungles were so thick, that in a few minutes I had the Subedar, one Jamidar, and 27 Sepoys killed, or too badly wounded to render me any assistance; and had I not been immediately reinforced, the few that remained (13 only) must have fallen a sacrifice to the enemy; but this timely aid enabled me to carry off my wounded, and to secure the whole of the Bazaar &c., without the loss of a single article; having kept the whole between the battalion and my small party. After many harassing marches in pursuit of the enemy, to very little purpose, on account of the forests by which the country was surrounded, and after losing many brave men, the commanding officer adopted a different method of carrying on the war, which in the end had the desired effect. This was to send out a party consisting of one Lieutenant, one Ensign, and from 80 to 100 men almost every night, so arranged as to arrive at a given point about day break, by which means we generally found the enemy either by the smoke of their village, or from their temporary huts in the jungle; and this brought in many prisoners and quantities of cattle, in which their principal riches consisted. It fell to my lot to command the last party so employed, and I was fortunate enough to surround a large party of the enemy, and prevent the escape of a single man of them, Their position being desperate and having considerable property at stake, they made a stout resistance, and suffered considerably before they would surrender.

The number of prisoners far exceeded the strength of my party; I took 800 head of cattle, more than 4000 goats, and other plunder of little value to the captors, but of infinite importance to the enemy, so much so, that the Chief immediately sent his Vakeel to beg a truce, which was followed in a few days by a peace; and his payment of all arrears due to the Company, besides fair promises of future good conduct.

On this occasion, the commanding Officer was pleased to compliment me in orders. The part of the country through which we had been pursuing the enemy for several months, was covered with thick forests which rendered it peculiarly unhealthy to Europeans, we lost two excellent officers Lieutenants Blair and Smith, besides non-commissioned officers, very few of us escaped severe illness. I was confined from April to November, and was sent to Ballasore with three other officers for the benefit of sea air. I returned little benefited in health, and too weak and emaciated to stand, and on my return, my palanquin was surrounded by a party of Maharatas, the bearers at once took to flight, and the chief of the party (a man of some importance) throwing back the curtains of my palanquin and flourishing a Tulwar (broadsword) over my head, demanded my baggage &c., &c, but on seeing my helplessness, and receiving assurance that it had preceded me some hours, and must have got to the other side of the river at Tillasore, he was disposed to pity my situation, and ordered some of his people to go and search of my bearers, and then bade them be careful of me and fear nothing from his party. I thanked my generous enemy, and proceeded unmolested on my way to Midnapore.

In the same year, 1776, my friend and shipmate, Colonel Leslie, removed me from the 17th Battalion in which I was third Lieutenant, to be senior Lieutenant in the second Battalion, commanded by Captain Popham (since Major-General) at that time stationed at Sub Gunge in Coos Behar.

In 1778, the 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th Battalions of Sepoys, 2 Troops of native Cavalry, 500 Candahar horse, and a good park of Artillery, the whole commanded by Colonel Leslie, and not exceeding 7000 fighting men, were ordered to cross the Peninsula of India, and forming a junction with a Detachment of the Bombay Army, attack Poonah, the Capital Of the Maharatta Empire.

In 1778, we crossed the Jumna at Culpee, in face of a large" body of Maharattas, a few of our men were wounded while the enemy had both men and horses killed. Our first day's march from the Jumna (3rd June) proved most disastrous, the heat intense, and the roads so bad, that the carriage bullocks could not proceed; At the end of five hours we reached the only well that had been seen on the road, this renewed our spirits, and those who were ready to perish, thought their troubles were at an end when the dismal announcement was made that the well was dry. We proceeded onward more dead than alive, and I am sure that at this crisis, a small force might have destroyed our whole army. Fifty Sepoys and camp followers perished, simply from want of water; we arrived at Murgong, eight coss only from Culpee about noon, the intense heat of the sun, with scorching winds for the preceding four hours upon the barren plain we traversed had been truly dreadful.

At Murgong we found several wells, some stopped up by the enemy, and others poisoned by throwing into them large quantities of the prickly pear, a shrub which abounds in most parts of India. Had all the wells been dealt with in like manner, the total destruction of our whole force had been the probable result, as there was no water between this and the Butawah nullah, nine miles distant.

Upwards of twenty officers fell sick from the sufferings of this day's march, Captain James Crawford, one of the best Officers in the army died raving mad, and five others died from the same causes a few days after. The thermometer was at this time from 114° to 200° in our tents, though they had thick linings and a large fly some feet above them. Numbers of cattle died from want of water, and as I before stated, fifty Sepoys and camp followers. The latter were in the proportion of five, to one fighting man, so that of our body of at least 50,000, more than 20,000 were followers, a fact which must astonish every military man who has never seen a campaign in India. After a few more fatiguing marches we arrived at Chatterpore, the capital of the Bundelkund, Here the rains set in, and detained us from the 3rd of July to the 12th of October. During this time Colonel Goddard took the city of Mow by storm, but with no great loss of men or officers. On the 15th of August the army marched to the Raji Ghur (15 coss) within a mile of the Cane, a rapid river full of rocks.

Amaroods Sing's army, consisting of 6,000 Cavalry and Infantry had taken possession of the opposite side of the river, We continued at this place until the beginning of October, during which time Colonel Leslie died, and the command devolved on Colonel Goddard. On the 1st of September, Captain Popham marched with the 2nd Battalion and 500 Candahar horse, with a view to intercept a body of 20,000 of Amaroods Sing's cavalry, which had crossed the Cane in the hope of cutting off our supplies. We fell in with them next morning at day break, and although they had taken a strong post, soon put them to the rout, with considerable loss to the enemy.

In consequence of this skirmish the fort of Goot Gange fell into our hands, and was put under my charge until the 16th of October, when we joined the army from Raji Ghur and proceeded towards the Narbuddah. During the whole of this march (285 miles) we were much harassed by the enemy who cut off straggling parties and carried away our cattle &c., we also suffered much by the rockets they threw into our camp at night which did great execution wherever they fell. On the 1st of December we reached the Narbuddah, and during our march passed the rivers Cutnee and Dusadan, and several nullahs, also the Capital towns of Kimlasah, Koorney and Bopoltole, besides numbers of delightful villages, We remained on

the banks of the Narbuddah near Husnabad until the 6th of January 1777, waiting for orders from Calcutta, when we proceeded through a most charming and highly cultivated, country to Burampore, distant about 153 miles, and during this march we crossed the rivers Guzrat, Ballasore, Gorahpurra and Mousar, the forts Chainpoor and Pipar, and passed at a few miles on our right, Assurghur, which I consider the strongest fort in India, belonging to the natives. It is built on the summit of an all but inaccessible mountain, only to be approached by a road so narrow and steep, as to admit of but one loaded bullock to pass. It possesses a tank of excellent water, and land to grow corn, for perhaps 2,000 men; I should therefore think it impossible for any army to take it, and if at a future day this place should be taken, I imagine it will be through treachery, or the cowardice of the Killadar; it lies about 14 miles north east of the city of Burampore, the capital of the rich province of Candish.

Assurghur supplied us with abundance of delicious grapes and oranges; that the former should be in perfection at that time of the year, 7th January may seem extraordinary, but we were told that the position of the mountain accounted for it, The walls of the Fort are of stone, and appear to be about three miles in circumference, it stands on a rock, barren of any vestige of tree or shrub, so that I should say it is one of the most; impregnable fortresses in the world.

We remained near Burampore for a week, when the General received intelligence from the Governor of Bombay, of the total defeat of their troops by the Maharattas on the top of the Gauts, with instructions to make every exertion to reach Surat to prevent our being interrupted by the enemy, who were marching against us with their whole force of more than 100,000 men. On the 6th of February we proceeded towards Surat, and arrived On the 25th. During the march we passed through a delightful country, well cultivated and populous, with numbers of small rivers and nullahs, the villages surrounded with pucka and mud walls. The city of Chopperah has a strong pucka wall around it, and the city of Noondabar is also defended by strong walls and towers, this last is said to be the Capital of Tuckoagee, the Hulcar's country. We also passed close to Soanghur, a lofty hill with a pucka fort on the top:

Culpee to Chatterpore 120 miles;

” ” Rajighur 30 ”

” ” Buranipore 126 ”

” ” Surat 223 ”

While the Bengal army lay on the banks of. the Narbubda; Captain Popham was appointed Paymaster, and the command devolved on me as senior Lieutenant, and very soon after our arrival at Surat, Captain Popham quitted the army and returned to Bengal by sea; he was soon after appointed Major; when I was promoted to the rank of Captain; and succeeded him in the command of the 2nd Battalion. On the 1st of January 1780 we proceeded to the northward, as the General was resolved to carry on the war with the Maharattas, and in order to prevent having an enemy in the rear, he judged it best to endeavour first to subdue Futtu Sing, the 'Rajah of Guzarat, who was in alliance with the Maharattas; and had a large force at Broderah his capital: We took Dubay a large walled city after a trifling resistance, and the Rajah was soon glad to become an ally of the English, to save his capital and his whole territory from being laid waste. Our new ally joined us with a large body of his troops, and proceeding north soon arrived before the city of Amedabad, the capital of the Guzarat, commanded by a chief in the interest of the Poonah Government. This city is situated on the Suparmattea, a beautiful little river which falls in to the sea at Cambay. We opened our batteries on the 10th of February, and took the city by storm.

On the 15th, Captain Gough who commanded the storming party fell in the attack, and I was commanded to take possession of the city with 500 of the Bombay troops. Our cannon did much havoc in a short time; three practicable breaches were made in the walls, houses &c.

were battered down, and hundreds of fighting men, besides the poor inhabitants lying dead and dying in all directions. The next morning I discovered some thousand barrels of gunpowder, and reported it to General Goddard. Our army was supplied with as much as it could carry, and the overplus was thrown into the river. After remaining in our possession some little time, the city was given to Futtu Singh.

I then joined my Battalion, and we returned to the South in pursuit of Sindia and Holkar, two powerful Maharatta Chiefs who were ravaging the country round Brodera, with an army of 60,000 strong. On the 17th of March, and two following days we engaged the enemy, during which time we lost several officers &c. &c. The enemy suffered considerably from our cannon and had they made a stand, as expected from the character of their leaders, the slaughter must have been great on both sides; the principal mischief they did us was by their rockets. As our army advanced the enemy retreated, and finally quitted the country, leaving a large party to harass and cut off our supplies. The Bengal army remained in the neighbourhood of Brodera until the middle of May, and were joined by Colonel Brown with 300 Europeans of the Madras Establishment, and two Battalions of Sepoys from Bombay. A body of near 10,000 Maharattas pushed forward to cut off the Colonel's detachment; before a junction could be made with the Bengal army, and I was detached with the greatest secrecy and haste to reinforce him. I started at nightfall and came up with the Colonel by daybreak, and he, having intelligence of the enemy's intention had taken a strong post in the vicinity of Brodera.

I lost no time in representing to Colonel Brown the urgency of hastening back to join the General, as his situation was critical, having weakened his small army by detaching me with nearly one third of his force; and that he meant to remain under arms during my absence. All this was objected to, and the excuse alleged, was the fatigue my detachment had suffered from so long a march. I pledged myself that they should be ready to return after a rest of two hours, and of their doing so with cheerfulness, but I could not prevail on Colonel Brown to move before the evening, and give the orders accordingly. The two Bengal Battalions were ordered to form the rear guard; the Madras Europeans in front, and the whole to march as soon as it was dark, and all precautions to be taken to prevent a surprise. We had barely quitted the ground when to my astonishment I observed branch lights in front, and soon after, the Colonel sent us his Aid-de-camp to me with orders that I should take the command of the line, as he meant to proceed with his 300 Europeans only, seeing the Bombay Battalions could not keep up with him, I took the liberty of remonstrating with the A.D.C., representing the impossibility of the four Battalions of Sepoys with their guns, tumbrils, bazaars &c. &c., keeping up with a few Europeans, who had no encumbrances whatever. I also expressed my surprise at so many lights in front of the line, after the precautions so much insisted upon in the orders of the morning, but on finding these lights, belonged to the Colonel and his officers, and that he was already two or three miles ahead, I proceeded to obey the orders delivered by the A.D. C., and found the Bombay troops making every effort to keep up with the Colonel.

When I found the Europeans at least a mile in front, I ordered a halt until the rear had closed up, which certainly reached two miles. It was a happy circumstance for us, the enemy took no advantage of this opportunity of cutting us to pieces, Colonel Brown with his party arrived safely with General Goddard about midnight, and received a justly severe censure for his conduct. I did not arrive for some hours later, when I was honoured with the General's approbation in the presence of Colonel Brown, and on his (Colonel Brown) retiring, the General declared before the Adjutant General and, several of his own staff, that had the enemy made an attack on our detachment (as he had every reason to expect) before I took the command, the whole must have been inevitably destroyed, and he hoped ere long to have it in his power to show me and the whole army the high opinion he had of my conduct; on the

present occasion only, but on many others since I had been under his command. Those who were present looked on the compliments paid me, very differently from what I did myself, for I was conscious I had done no more than any other officer in the Bengal army would have done in my place, and perhaps the General overrated my conduct the more, to mark his disapproval of that of Colonel Brown.

About this time Sindia and Holkar returned strongly reinforced, and it was supposed their army was very little short of 100,000 strong. For several days they threatened an attack, constantly advancing nearly within the reach of our guns, but could not be brought to engage with us in earnest. On this the General ordered me to move out with my Battalion about half a mile in front as a decoy, and in the event of the enemy retreating, to remain there as an advanced picquet until I should find it necessary to fall back to my ground in the line. Here I continued for some weeks, in expectation of their bearing down on my little party. From day break when they made their appearance, until sunset when they invariably retired, they were often within reach of my two long brass pounders, as well as of the two field pieces attached to my Battalion, so that I had frequent opportunities of playing with them, and must have done great execution. One day they came so near that the General sent me orders to fall back into the line, supposing I might be pursued and a general engagement be the result. But the manoeuvre did not succeed. Being now convinced that the Maharattas only meant to harass us as much as possible, we proceeded towards Surat, in order to get into cantonments before the rain set in. The latter end of May 1780, we arrived at Bonpier Gaut, when the General deemed it advisable to leave two Battalions and a small park of artillery at Sennora on the banks of the Narbudda, for the protection of several Purgunnahs lately ceded to the English by Rajah Futtu Sing, as well as for the security of Brodera, his Capital. The whole country being threatened by Sindia and Holkar, who still continued with an army of about 30,000 horse, within two days march of Brodera, having sent the rest of their army to the eastward. These two Chiefs remained near Bawarree, about 25 coss from Brodera until September, when they quitted the Guzarat. I now had a fresh proof of the General's confidence in receiving the command of the above named detachment, consisting of the 2nd and 4th Battalions, with Artillery &c., the whole amounting to about 2500 men. I immediately set about erecting temporary cantonments between two deep ravines, with the Narbudda in my rear. In this strong position, and in the country between the Narbudda and the river Mahy, the boundaries of my command, I continued nearly 12 months. During the few months the enemy remained in the neighbourhood, I received several insolent and threatening letters from Sindia, and having detected one of his spies who expected death, I gave him his liberty, sending him back with a pressing invitation to his master, which in spite of his threats he had not the spirit to accept, but abruptly broke up his cantonments and proceeded to the eastward.

On the breaking up of the rains I made frequent excursions round the country, in one of which I had occasion to chastise an insolent fellow who had taken possession of a walled town (Cheempaneer) near Pawagur, which he supposed to be very strong. I then proceeded against Khyseer Cown, a most notorious rebel of the Company, who had destroyed several Villages, murdered many of the inhabitants, and had the audacity to fix several of their heads on the walls of Dubay, a city that belonged to the English. This fellow was the chief of the Grashees country, bordering on our newly ceded Purgunnahs, and I was very desirous to secure the villain, so leaving the four Battalions and Artillery under Captain Archer's care, I by forced march and good luck came up with him just at day break; having secured him I intimated the same to the Council of Broach. Great satisfaction was expressed and extraordinary praises lavished, but accompanied by a request that my prisoner might be liberated with only a severe reprimand.

As I was not under their command, I took upon myself to make the ruffian pay all arrears due to the Company, and give security for future good conduct, I was greatly disappointed at the decision of the Council. I afterwards learned the true cause of their leniency, for I considered that a much severer punishment was due to his offences. I had scarcely returned to my cantonments at Sennore, when I received a letter from Major Forbes, commanding the Guzarat Province, informing me that he was surrounded by at least 10,000 Maharattas, and as his force was not sufficiently strong, having only two Battalions of Bombay Sepoys with him, he had taken his post at Soanghur, a strong Fort about 80 miles from me, and begged my assistance with all possible expedition. I immediately left my heavy Artillery, sick, wounded, and every thing that could impede my march at Rhan Ghur, a strong Fort, under the charge of a Jamedar and 30 Sepoys. After a most fatiguing march with my tumbrils and light field pieces across a country without a vestige of road, or even foot-path, I joined the Major in three days. The enemy had fallen back near to Nowapora, about 16 miles distant, so it was resolved to make an attack on them the following night, and as the Major took charge of my detachment, I proceeded with the Grenadiers of my own Battalion and two six pounders, as the advanced guard I fell in with their picquets just before day break, and on their giving the alarm, the enemy was clear of the ground in a few minutes, having their horses saddled all night; they made a stand on a hill in their rear, but on bringing our guns to bear on them, made a rapid retreat; nor did they ever return to the Guzerat during the campaign. As soon as it was ascertained that the enemy had quitted that part of the country, I resumed my command at Sennore, and after settling the Ryots in peaceable possession of their villages, and clearing the country to the entire satisfaction of the Chief and Council of Broach, the Resident of our newly ceded Purgunnahs, and our new ally Futtu Sing, my detachment returned to Surat: there I received instructions from General Goddard to proceed to the Court of Futtu Sing to settle some misunderstanding which had arisen between the General and the Rajah. After a stay of three months, I had the satisfaction of settling all differences. On my return to Surat I accompanied the General to Brodera, where he was met by the Rajah, Futtu Sing, where I was honoured by the appointment of Resident at the Court of Brodera, on the part of the English Government, and was presented to the Rajah by the General as his adopted son, which had a wonderful effect on his behaviour during my stay with him of upwards of two years. I did not quit his Durbar until the peace was finally concluded between the English and the Maharatta States, at the end of 1783, when I returned to Surat, and from thence by land to Bombay. The war being ended and my health much impaired, I was advised by the Faculty to return by sea to Bengal.

The army returned to Bengal by nearly the same route, now commanded by Colonel C. Morgan in place of General Goddard, who returned to Europe. Colonel Morgan gave me letters to Mr Hastings, the Governor General, and to the Commander in Chief, General Lubbert. These letters proved of service, and were instrumental in procuring for me a Battalion of Sepoys very shortly after my return to Bengal in August 1783, during which time I refused the appointment of Aid-de-camp to Colonel Ironsides, having been promised the first Battalion that became vacant, which I obtained in September, being appointed to the 1st Battalion 30th Regiment, stationed at Chandernagore, a French settlement, and on its being given up to the French on the conclusion of the war in 1784, the Regiment proceeded to Chunar Ghur.

In May 1785 I was ordered with my Battalion in command to Gazapore, where I remained six months, and on my return to Chunar I found my health so much impaired that I obtained permission to return to England for three years, a step judged necessary by the Faculty. Having returned to Europe in a French ship, we reached L'Orient in June 1786, and landed in England the August following.

APPENDIX 2

Will of Captain Solomon Earle

My transcript of a copy of the original will (National Archives, UK ref PROB 11/1694)

This is the last will and Testament of me Solomon Earle of Clatterford in the Isle of Wight Esquire late Captain and Paymaster of the Honorable the East India company's depot made this tenth day of February one thousand eight hundred and twenty four.

I direct that all my just debts and funeral and testamentary expenses be fully paid by and out of the residue of my personal Estate hereinafter bequeathed. I give to each of my children including my daughter Sophia the wife of Richard Lipscombe late of Whitbourne in the county of Hereford Yeoman one share in the Grand Western Canal.

I give all my Plate, Books, Silver and family pictures unto and equally between my children William Henry Earle, John Lucas Earle, Solomon Earle Elfrida Mathias, Marianne Lampriere, Susannah Earle, Eleanor Earle, Rosalie Danvers Earle and Emily Susan Rainie or such of them that shall be living at the time of my decease share and share alike and I entrust my Executors and Executrix to make a division and distribution of the same accordingly and direct that such division and distribution shall be final and conclusive on all parties and as to for and xxxx all and singular my freehold, leasehold and Copyhold assuages farms Lands Covenants and hereditaments and all other my real estate and as to all and singular the rest residue and remainder of my household goods, furniture, ready money, debts and sureties for money and all other my personal Estate and effects whatsoever and xxxxxxxx whereof xxxxxx any xxxx to dispose and have not hereinbefore disposed of.

I give leave and bequeath the same and every part thereof Stewart Peter Pearce of Swithins Lane London esquire, William Lempriere of the parish of Carisbrooke in the Isle of Wight doctor of phisic and Marianne the wife of the said William Lampriere their heirs executors administrators and assigns for ever or according to the nature and qualities of the same properties and all my Estate right and interest therein respectively upon the several trusts nevertheless and to and for the several ends interests and purposes hereinafter expressed as to for and remaining my freehold xxage farm lands and Estate called Whiddon situate near Ashburton in the county of Devon upon trust that they my said trustees and the Survivor of them shall and do ascertain as nearly as can be the value of such Estate by having the same valued by some competent surveyor or surveyors and shall and do offer the same to my son John Lucas Earle at such valuation or at such other price as they, my said trustees, shall deem the full and fair value and in case my said son John Lucas Earle shall agree to xxx the purchase at such sum then that they my said trustees shall and do so on payment of such purchase money by my said son John Lucas Earle within six calendar months after the same shall have been so offered to him xxx and xxx the same unto and to the use of my said son John Lucas Earle his heirs and assigns forever but in case my said son John Lucas Earle shall refuse to accept the same at such price or shall not accept the same and pay the purchase money within six months after such offer being so made to him then upon trust that they my said trustees shall and do make a like offer to my son William Henry Earle on the like conditions and in case of his acceptance make the conveyance and assignation to him on his payment of the purchase money within six months after the offer shall have been made to him but in case of a refusal or nonacceptance or non-payment of the purchase money by my said son William Henry Earle then upon trust that they my said trustees shall and do make the like offer to my son Solomon Earle and in case of his acceptance of the same offer the

conveyance and assign to him on his paying the purchase money for the same within six months after the offer shall have been made to him.

But in case of the refusal or nonacceptance of such purchase or nonpayment of the purchase money by my said son Solomon Earle within six months after the offer so made to him as aforesaid then upon trust that my said trustees shall and do sell and dispose of the same * shall be sold to my sons or either of them or any other person stand possessed of the monies arising therefore upon the trusts declared and as to all other my freehold Leasehold and copyhold assuages, lands, tenaments, heridataments and parts and shares thereof and other my Real Estate whatsoever and wheresoever upon trust that they my said trustees shall and do as soon as conveniently can be after my decease make sale and dispose of all the said residue of my said freehold leasehold and copyhold Estates either together or in parts and either by public auction or private contract or partly by public auction and partly by private contract to any person or persons for such price or prices as they my said trustees shall deem sufficient and shall and do receive the purchase monies for the same and stand possessed thereof upon the trusts hereinafter declared and as to all the said residue of my personal estate upon trust that my said trustees shall and do make sale and dispose of such part and parts thereof as shall not consist of money or sureties for money and shall and do collect and get in all monies due or in xxxx owing to me or my estate so that all my said real and personal estate may be converted into money and shall and do stand possessed of all my said money upon trust that they my said trustees shall and do in the first place pay and discharge all my just debts and funeral and testamentary expenses and from and after payment thereof shall and do lay out and invest all the then residue and surplus of the said trust monies on Government East India or Real Sureties at interest in their own names and shall and do alter vary change and transpose the same as they shall from time to time think proper and shall and do apply such part and parts of the dividends and annual interest thereof as they shall think proper for and towards the comfortable support and maintenance of my dear wife Rosa Earle for and during her natural life taking into their consideration any pension or allowance which may be paid and afforded her by The Honorable The East India Company it being my will and meaning that either from such pension or allowance or from the trusts of this my will or from both the annual income of my said wife shall at all times be one hundred pounds per annum at the least and from and after so paying and applying the said sum in their discretion as aforesaid for the comfortable support and maintenance * of such of my daughters as shall be from time to time unmarried and when and as any or either of my daughters who shall be unmarried at the time of my decease shall marry shall and so pay and I do give to each daughter so marrying the sum of four hundred pounds to be paid to such daughter on the day of marriage and subject to making such payments as aforesaid shall and do from time to time apply the dividends and interest of the xxxx from time to time existing trust monies in for and towards the support of my said wife and in unmarried daughters until their shall remain only one unmarried daughter and when that event shall happen shall and do set apart a sufficient part of the said trust monies to provide and pay the sum for the maintenance and support of my said wife and also the farther sum of one hundred pounds per annum for the maintenance and support of such remaining single daughter until she shall marry or die and shall and do pay and apply the same xxx accordingly and shall and do in case such one remaining single daughter shall afterwards marry pay her her portion of four hundred pounds as xxx hereinbefore provided and subject to the setting apart such portion of the said trust monies as to all other parts of the said trust monies and also after the death of my said wife as to the portion of the said trust monies so set apart for providing her support as aforesaid and likewise after the marriage or death without having been married of the daughter who shall last remain unmarried as to the portion as to the portion of the trust monies set apart for providing her

X
xxx farmlands and xxx
as is hereinafter divided
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my freehold and
copyhold estate and
shall and do whether
the same shall

X
Of my said dear wife shall
and do pay and apply all
these residue and surplus
of the said trust monies for
and towards her support @
maintenance

income of one hundred pounds per annum and sum of four hundred pounds upon trust that may my said trustees shall and do pay and divide and I do hereby give and bequeath the same unto between and amongst all my children including the said Sophia Lipscombe who shall be then living and the issue of such of them as shall be then dead leaving issue such issue to take the part or share his her or their parent or parents should have been entitled to if living share and share alike to and for her and their own use and benefit nevertheless it is my will and meaning that my said trustees shall not actually pay over any sum whatever to my said daughter Sophia Lipscombe or her husband but when and as any sum shall become payable to her under this my will my said trustees shall invest the same on Government East India or real securities at interest in their own names and pay the interest to my said daughter Sophia Lipscombe during her life exclusive of her husband and so as not to be xx subject to his xxxx debts or engagements and her script alone notwithstanding her xxx shall be sufficient discharge for the same and after the decease of my said daughter shall do and pay and I do give the interest of such sums for the maintenance of all and every daughter and daughters of my said daughter Sophia Lipscombe until they respectively reach the age of twenty one years or be married which shall first happen and as and when such daughter or daughters shall respectively attain that age or be married to pay and divide the principal between them if more than one and if but one then to pay the whole to such one but in case there shall be no daughter of the said Sophia Lipscombe who shall attain the age of twenty one years or be married under that age then I give the principal of the said trust monies xx to and amongst the sons of the said Sophia Lipscombe if more than one equally between them and if but one then the whole to such one absolutely

and if there be no son or daughter of my said daughter Sophia who shall live to attain a vested interest in the said principal money then I give the same to my own legal personal representatives and my will further is in case at the time hereinbefore provided for the division of my probity any person or persons entitled to a share shall be a minor the share or shares of such person or persons shall not be paid until he she or they respectively shall attain the age of twenty one years but in the meantime the interest thereof shall be applied by my said trustees for the support of such person or persons until he she or they shall attain that age

and I do declare that all powers and trusts hereby given to the said Stewart Peter Pearce William Lempriere and Marianne Lempriere shall vest in the survivors and survivor of them and the executors and administrators of such survivor and that for the purposes of xxxx this my will into execution the said Marianne Lempriere shall be deemed to be a femme sole and all her acts and xxxx as such trustee shall notwithstanding her xxxx shall be as good valid and effectual as if she were sole and unmarried and I do give to my trustees and the survivors and survivor of them full and complete power to sell and survey all my freehold leasehold and copyhold estates and to make and execute all deeds conveyances and assignxxx to which shall be necessary for carrying this my will into execution with such deeds and conveyances shall be valid and effectual to all intents and purposes without the concurrence of my heir at law or of any person beneficially interested under this my will and that the receipt or receipts in writing of my said trustees for the time acting in the execution of the terms of this my will for any purchase or other monies payable or to be received under this my will shall be a sufficient and effectual discharge for the same respectively or so much thereof respectively as in such receipt or receipts respectively shall be expressed or acknowledged to be received and that the person or persons to whom the same shall be given his her or their heirs executors administrators or assigns shall not afterwards be answerable or accountable for any loss missappropriation or nonappropriation thereof or xx in xxx xxx obliged or xxx to see to the application of the money xxx expressed or acknowledged to be xxxx and that they my said trustees and the survivors or survivor of them his her or their heirs executors xxx or assigns shall be charged or chargeable only for such monies as they shall respectively actually arrive

by virtue of the trusts thereby in them xxxxxx notwithstanding his her or their giving or signing or joining in xxx giving or signing any receipt or receipts for the sake of conformity and any one or more of them shall not be answerable or accountable for the other or others of them but each and every of them only for his her and their own arts scripts and defaults respectively and that they or any of them shall not be answerable for any other misfortune loss or damage which may happen to the said trust monies or xxx in the execution of the aforesaid trusts or in relation thereto except the same shall happen by or through their his or her own willful defaults respectively and that it shall be lawful to and for my said trustees and the survivor of them his executors and administrators by and out of the monies to which shall come to their respective hands by virtue of the trusts aforesaid to retain and reimburse himself and themselves and also to allow to his and their cotrustee and cotrustees all costs charges damages and expenses which they or any of them shall or may suffer sustain expend or be put into in or about the execution of the aforesaid trusts or in relation thereto

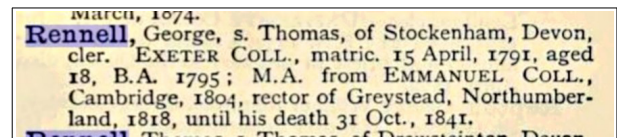
and lastly I do hereby nominate constitute and appoint the said Stewart Peter Pearce William Lempriere and Marianne Lempriere joint guardians of all my said daughters who shall be living and unmarried at the time of my decease and joint executors of this my will and I do hereby revoke all former wills by me heretofore at any time made and so declare this to be my only true last will and testament in witness to hereof I the said Solomon Earle the testator have to first five sheets of this my will set my hand and to this sixth and last sheet hereof set my hand and seal the day and year first above written S Earle Signed sealed published and xxx by the said Solomon Earle the testator as and for his last will and testament in the presence of us three together who in his presence at his request and in the presence of each of other have subscribed our names as witnesses thereto Hx Maynard HW Galpine HWJ Harvey.

Proved at London 13th Jany 1825 before the judge by the oaths of William Lempriere doctor of medicine and Marianne Lempriere the wife of the said William Lempriere the xxxxx@ Stewart Peter Pearce Esq and the Exrs. to whom admin was granted xxx xxxx xx xxx that is to say the said William Lempriere and Marianne Lempriere by xxx the said Stewart Peter Pearce Esq before the worshipful xxx xxx xxx

APPENDIX 3

Tracing George Rennell and his connection with Napoleon Bonaparte

I had for some time known that my 3x great aunt Emily had been baptised as a young girl at St Luke's Church, Greystead, Northumberland in 1818 but I did not know why the event occurred there as (according to census data) she was born in Newport Isle of Wight when her father Captain Solomon Earle was Acting Adjutant at the Honourable East India Company's recruiting depot before the whole operation was transferred back to their Chatham barracks in 1815. I suspected that it could be a transcription error until, when researching Solomon's wife's father, Thomas Rennell, who was a vicar in Stokenham, Devon, I came across another entry in the Clergy of the Church of England Database (CCed). This showed that there was a George Rennell, son of Thomas Rennell who became the vicar of Greystead in 1818. I now knew that the family travelled from London to Greystead so that Emily could be baptised by her uncle George as one of his first duties. When I eventually found an image of the Bishop's Transcript of baptisms at Greystead I could see that in fact it was the 3rd baptism that George performed.



George Rennell, entry in Alumni Oxoniensis

In the spring of 2017 my wife and I took a trip to England, principally to catch up with living relatives, but I thought it would be a good opportunity to pay my respects to some dead ones as well! My wife's family are all in Newcastle upon Tyne so I had thought it would be a good opportunity to visit Greystead and see the church where George had been the Rector for more than 20 years. I was also curious to know if there would be any clue as to what he had been doing in the years before he was appointed to Greystead.

Two days after having arrived in the country and travelling for more than 25 hours, jet lag was still having its impact and we weren't sure that a trip out to Greystead would be worthwhile with only a few days in the Newcastle area before driving down to Devon. Awake at night, rather than lying there trying to sleep, I decided to have another look on the internet at the image of Greystead church that I had seen before leaving home. This time I also searched a bit wider and found a reprint of an article that had appeared in Tynedale Life Magazine (13 March 2014). The article was about how the church was de-consecrated some time ago and had recently been renovated by the new owners so that it could be rented out as a holiday home. This news set me to thinking that it wouldn't be worth the drive to see the church as we would be unable to go inside. The article went on to explain how the owners went about the renovation process and one comment was that the owners were keen to preserve the memorial stone to the first Rector the Reverend George Rennell. Wow! Now I was getting really frustrated, furthermore, the article stated that George died in 1844 not 1841 as given in his Alumni Oxonienses entry. There was also the comment that a guest had remarked that "He had been given a Living as far away from the sea as possible". What did she mean by that? There

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <u>Greystead</u> in the County of <u>Northumberland</u> in the Year <u>1818</u> .						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Names. Christian. Surname.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
1818. Sunday 23 ^d of August No. 1	Walter son of Jane	John and Fenwick	Fenwick	Inhabited Haugh	Farmer	Charles Charlton Rector of St. Thilda Officiating Minister
1818. Sunday 23 ^d of August No. 2	William son of Anne	Matthew and Gillis	Gillis	Middle Eck	Farmer	Charles Charlton Rector of St. Thilda Officiating Minister
1818. Sunday 23 ^d of August No. 3	Emily daughter of Solomon and Rose	Solomon and Earle	Earle	Wachbury Middle Eck	Captain in East India Company's Service	George Rennell Rector of Greystead

Baptism of Emily Earle by her uncle George Rennell
(extract from Bishop's Transcript)

must be more on the memorial stone than just his name and burial date but how could I see it if the property was rented out and it was rarely vacant as the article stated. Searching the internet for more leads I came across the information sheet provided to potential renters. I found out that the changeover day for occupancy was Friday. I was reading this late on a Thursday night. Now I was sure that George had a story to tell me. Perhaps if we got there about 10am on the following morning the cleaners would be there and we could see the memorial stone. At breakfast I told my wife the plan, we would get out there by 9:45 and go in with the cleaners, take a quick photo or two and be back in Newcastle late morning to meet up with her brother.

It all went to plan, we arrived just before the cleaners got there and they let us go into the lobby and photograph the memorial stone that was mounted high on the wall. There was the information I needed. The plaque stated that he was a Chaplain in the Royal Navy before being appointed to Greystead.

Subsequently we met with Mrs Munroe who, with her husband, lived in the rectory and had renovated the church. She told us that the church, along with several others in the North Tyne area, had been built by the Greenwich Hospital Trust and they had appointed Navy



A memorial stone in the old Greystead church



Saint Luke's Church, Greystead, Northumberland

Chaplains to the churches as Rectors. The land had previously been owned by James Radcliffe the 3rd Earl of Derwentwater, a descendant of a prominent Catholic family whose seat was nearby Dilston Hall. Radcliffe was a Jacobite who played an active role in the rising of 1715 against the Crown. Following the unsuccessful uprising James surrendered at Preston, Lancashire and was subsequently taken to Tower Hill, London. There he was executed and his lands confiscated. Eventually his North Tyne property was donated to the Greenwich Trust to subdivide the Parish and construct new churches.

I was able to download George Rennell's naval service history from the National Archives website. Over a period of 13 years he had served on six ships. The dates of service on each ship is entered on the record. Highlights of the service history of each ship are readily available on Wikipedia. These show that he missed the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 whilst aboard the *Zealous* as his ship was dispatched to Gibraltar for resupply before the event took place. George spent about 2 years on the *Albion*, the flagship of Rear Admiral George Cockburn. Cockburn was the man credited with the main responsibility for the only attack by a foreign force, other than 9/11, on the US Capital, Washington at the closing stages of

George Rennell: Chaplain				Time.			
Ship.	Entry.	Quality.	Discharge.	Y.	M.	W.	D.
<i>Zealous</i>	7 July 1805	Chaplain	26 Sept 1808	3	12	-	-
<i>Revenge</i>	3 Jan 1810	"	20 Sept 1810	11	-	-	5
<i>Raisonable</i>	26 April 1811	"	3 March 1812	9	1	2	
<i>Albion</i>	4 March 1812	"	12 Dec 1813	10	-	4	
<i>Northumberland</i>	5 May 1813	"	27 May 1813				26
<i>Orlando</i>	28 May 1813	"	22 June 1815	2	-	3	5
<i>Orlando</i>	28 June 1815	"	15 Aug 1816	1	1	3	
<i>Orlando</i>	17 Aug 1816	"	18 May 1818	1	9	3	2

George Rennell, Naval Service Record
Source: The national Archives UK

the 1812-1815 war between the British Empire and America (but that's another story!). When peace was declared between Britain and America in 1815 the *Albion* returned to England and Rennell again sailed with Cockburn on the newly refitted *Northumberland*. This was the most interesting and surprising of his voyages as, during his term of duty, the *Northumberland* was tasked with taking Napoleon Bonaparte to Saint Helena Island following his recapture at the battle of Waterloo. Napoleon having earlier that year escaped from the island of Elba.

The *Northumberland* was classed as a Third Rate ship (as was each of the others George Rennell served on). This sounds a bit inferior but in fact this class of ship was found by experience to be the best compromise between size, being smaller than First and Second rate ships (hence less fire-power) but having superior speed and handling. By the time of the battle of Trafalgar, Third rate ships were considered to be the best configuration for a fighting ship. She was 182' long, a beam of 48'10" and 1907 tons weight. Originally built to carry 74 guns, after refit she was equipped with an extra 10 swivel guns on the upper deck. She was manned by a crew of 640 officers men, boys and mariners. For the voyage to St Helena, Rear Admiral Cockburn was tasked with accompanying Napoleon but the ship was captained by Capt.. CBH. Ross. Colonel Sir George Ridout Bingham was the Commander of the 2nd Battalion of the 53rd Regiment, the troops tasked with guarding Napoleon on St Helena and they probably replaced part of the normal crew contingent.



Commemorative stamp with a painting of HMS Northumberland

As the voyage was such a momentous event there are several published accounts of the trip that can be downloaded and read from Archive.org. Rear Admiral Cockburn, in his memoirs, mainly recounted his regular discussions of various battles with Napoleon, whereas other writers recorded Napoleon's interaction with the ship's Officers, his eating habits and so on. These include John Glover, secretary to Rear Admiral Cockburn and Sir GH Bingham.

In all 27 French nationals were permitted to accompany Napoleon to St Helena. This number included Generals, ladies, children and servants. The Captain's dinner table seated 14 persons. In addition to The Rear Admiral, his Secretary, Captain Ross, Colonel Sir G Bingham and Napoleon there were six French persons on the regular seating list. Two more places were reserved for other Officers on a rotation and in addition, one other seat was available for another invitee. My 3x great uncle Chaplain George Rennell was invited to join the group for dinner every Sunday on the trip. On the first Sunday Glover noted that Napoleon spent nearly the whole meal-time questioning George, who was seated opposite him, on all aspects of the protestant religion. The following Sunday he again quizzed him on more aspects of his religion and how it differed to the Catholic faith.

After returning from St Helena, Chaplain George Rennell joined *HMS Bulwark* for two years before he was appointed to the newly Consecrated St Luke's Church at Greystead. He remained as Rector of Greystead for more than 20 years, no doubt entertaining the locals with his tales of the sea and the battles he witnessed as well as undertaking his official religious duties.

Now that I knew that George died after the 1841 census I searched further afield for him and I found him in Bellegrove House in Newcastle upon Tyne. Bellegrove was originally a private lunatic asylum near the Hunter's Moor hospital complex. After renovations in 1795 it

became known as the Bellegrove Retreat. Most patients had their own bedroom and sitting room which was clean, comfortable, neatly furnished and carpeted. They had pleasant gardens and were located “separate from those of the noisy patients”. It sounds like this might not have been such a bad way for my relative George Rennell to end a very interesting life in the mid 19th century.

George Rennell was not the only member of my family to accompany Napoleon Bonaparte on his journey to St Helena. His niece Elfrida Mathias (née Earle) accompanied her husband Gabriel. Gabriel Mathias was a Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery and part of the force assigned to guard Napoleon during his exile. She was one of two wives allowed to accompany officers on the voyage. Gabriel was a regular player of chess and whilst living on the Island is believed to have played against Napoleon.

George and Elfrida would have had much to talk about on the voyage including how Elfrida's younger brother Lieutenant Solomon Earle of the 2nd battalion of the Kings German Legion, had been one of the few survivors of the Battle of La Haye Sainte at Waterloo earlier that year.

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Archive.org A great source for out of copyright books that can be read, searched or downloaded:-

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APPENDIX 4

THE WOMAN WHO WATCHED DELHI FALL

Hudson, Christopher "The Woman Who Watched Delhi Fall" Magazine Sunday Times 17 June 2007, p55+. The Sunday Times Digital Archive, <http://tinyurl.galegroup.com.rp.nla.gov.au/tinyurl/9h6ts9> Accessed 6 Apr 2019

She was the captain's wife who survived the massacre of the British during the Indian mutiny in Delhi. This is the story of her remarkable escape and her determination to photograph and record the savage aftermath Early summer in Delhi. The heat was like a furnace. In the Tytlers' bungalow every door was sealed against the raging hot wind. Grass screens were placed over the windows and doors and watered every morning to keep the rooms fresh and cool. That was how the British rulers of India lived then: pulling down the shutters and closing the blinds on a nation that was simmering and boiling into bloody revolt.

The date, never to be forgotten, was May 11, 1857. By the time Captain Robert Tytler and his wife, Harriet, sat down to breakfast, their French nanny, Marie, had already bathed and fed the two young children (three older ones were at school in England). At 8am, just as they were finishing a plate of musk melons, their tailor came rushing in from the veranda. "Sahib, sahib," he panted, "the army has come!"

Robert stood up, calling for his boots and hat. "Don't be frightened, and don't leave the house until I send for you," he reassured his wife. So it was that Harriet, who would become possibly the earliest woman photographer of war, stayed in her shuttered drawing room in the military cantonment north-west of the city, unaware that almost the entire British population of Delhi was being slaughtered in the city below.

In her memoirs, written in the early 1900's shortly before her death, aged 79, what comes through is Harriet's sheer disbelief that the natives – who were so friendly towards her – could behave in this way. Yet the warning signs were there long before what came to be seen as the trigger for the Indian mutiny – the greased cartridges, smeared with the tallow of cows and pigs, which Hindu and Muslim troops had to break open with their teeth, thus transgressing the most sacred laws of their religions. The issuing of these Enfield cartridges by the authorities, without a thought to this blasphemy, was halted within five days of the mistake being noticed. No troops were given orders to use them.

But by then, the damage was done. Indian soldiers in the Bengal army, known as sepoys, already felt aggrieved and abandoned. The kingdom, Oudh, from which most of the sepoys were recruited had been annexed by the British. Their religion was under attack from zealous British commanders who favoured converts to Christianity in the army and government. The modernisations put in place by the previous governor general, Lord Dalhousie, rode roughshod over their system of privilege and caste, infuriating the zamindars, or smallholders, who were the backbone of the army. In the old days, when there was one British to every three Indian soldiers, their interests would have been protected. But these days, the younger officers gravitated towards the better prospects outside the armed forces: administering the subcontinent was less stressful and better paid. The ratio had since fallen to one British soldier in six – and it wasn't enough. To this fuse of grievances, the greased cartridges lit the flame.

Harriet Tytler was one of those genteel, apparently fragile Victorian ladies who turned out to be made of the sternest stuff. As a child in England, under the supervision of a sadistic aunt [Capt. Frederick Ranie and his wife Emily Susan née Earle], she learnt her lessons in rooms so cold that when she practised the piano she had surreptitiously to wipe the blood from her chilblains off the keys. She longed to be 18, when she could go back to India to be with her beloved father, and the poor girl fainted when she heard, on the sea journey out, that he had

suddenly died. Her mother had to take the younger children back to England, so Harriet, abandoned by her family, had to make a 900-mile journey across India to stay with a relative [*I believe this was Col Louis Bird and his wife Susan (née Earle) not Lt. RW Bird as Harriet and Robert Tytler stated in the notes attached to her published memoirs*]. Travelling alone, in a litter carried by successive teams of bearers, she at one point nearly drowned, and at another was left in the road at night next to a sleeping tiger after her bearers fled (luckily, the tiger had already feasted). She fended off admirers along the way, and fell in love with a charming Irishman from a good family, but he was penniless, so that was that.

Harriet stayed in hill stations in the foothills of the Himalayas, before travelling south to Lucknow, where she met her future husband. Robert Tytler, a captain in the crack 38th Native Infantry, proposed to Harriet so many times that she eventually accepted him out of pity. In due course she came to respect and love him. "All I ever learnt was from him," she wrote. During the mutiny in Delhi, where Robert's regiment had been sent, her courage and presence of mind were all the more remarkable in that she was eight months pregnant. The daily life of a memsahib in India was no kind of preparation for the horrors to come. There were ayahs to look after the children, and servants wall to wall. Officers' wives paid visits on one another in the late morning and early afternoon, resting through the heat of the day. All this came to an end on May 11. Harriet swiftly realised there was something very wrong: the servants running and whispering; the judge's wife hatless, her hair flowing loosely on her shoulders, hastening down the street with her child in her arms. Marie was shutting everything away under lock and key. "Madame, this is a revolution," Marie cried. "I know what a revolution is!" When a note came from Brigadier Graves to make for a rendezvous, Harriet, Marie and the children left the house in a friend's carriage, never to set eyes on it again. They ended up on the ridge of the cantonment, crammed into a round room in the Flag Staff Tower, less than 18ft in diameter. Outside, it was 138 F; inside, it was suffocating.

Only now did the fainting women with their wailing children hear for the first time about the massacre in the city. The British officers of an entire regiment had been slashed to pieces in the streets of Delhi. Women were dragged out of their hiding places in cupboards and under beds and hacked down. An English merchant, James Morley, returned to the home he shared with another family called Clark to find it ransacked. Clark had been beaten to the ground, Morley's wife had locked herself in the bathroom with their three children and the Clarks' son was pinned to the wall with his head hanging down. Some 50 Europeans and Eurasians, mostly women and children, were taken prisoner. They had a rope thrown around them and were dragged into a small courtyard in the Red Fort, a royal palace, where they were murdered with swords. The bodies were later heaped into a cart and thrown into the river.

Harriet finally found a seat on the stone steps leading up the Flag Staff Tower, the boy on one side clinging to her and the little girl in her arms, when an explosion rocked the city. A young artillery gunner, who had realised the danger of allowing the great store of small arms and ammunition in the magazine to fall into the hands of the mutineers, had laid a trail of gunpowder from the store. As the Indian sepoy rushed in to commandeer the magazine, the gunner signalled for the fuse to be lit. Several hundred mutineers, along with 250 people taking refuge from the massacres, died in the explosion. The women and officers under Brigadier Graves were preparing for a last stand against the rebels when Captain Tytler rode up with 80 or so sepoy who remained loyal. Pointing out that none of them had any food or water, Tytler shamed the dithering brigadier into ordering a retreat. A procession of carriages duly left the tower, Harriet, Marie and the children fitting into a small buggy beside the wife and baby son of a fellow captain, Henry Gardner. Looking back as dusk fell, Harriet saw the whole cantonment of bungalows in flames, and grieved the loss of "a beloved dead child's

hair, manuscripts and paintings for a book my husband was going to publish some day, all my own paintings, books, clothes, furniture...”

The Tytlers had no money and were forced to borrow from their French maid. At every moment they expected to be overtaken by the mutinous 3rd Bengal Cavalry – and dismembered bodies by the roadside reminded them of what their fate would be. The two women travelled with sharpened table knives; their husbands carried loaded guns. Three carriages broke under them during their headlong escape, and the two women, both heavily pregnant, had to travel in a bullock cart without springs. The only water was a greenish mire from the roadside pools. At a small post station called Kurnaul, a scattering of refugees joined them, and that morning of May 12, a small cavalcade continued on its way north towards the safety of Umballa in the hills.

A very few other people had remarkable escapes from Delhi. James Morley, the merchant whose family was killed in the Kashmir bazaar, put on a petticoat and veil belonging to the wife of his old washerman and followed him as he drove a bullock cart out of Delhi, reaching Kurnaul six days later. Lieutenant Peile, one of the last officers to get away, was shot four times, then ambushed by bandits who throttled him with his own shirtsleeve to make him tell them where he kept his money. Regaining consciousness, Peile continued walking until he collapsed, escaping murder by two sepoys brandishing sabres only when they realised he was too weak to stand.

Astonishingly, Harriet Tytler was about to retrace her journey. In Umballa, Robert was appointed paymaster to the troops, which meant returning to Delhi, passing the sites of battles strewn with Indian dead. Harriet was becoming a connoisseur of violent death. She was fascinated by the sight of these “fine tall men” stripped of their clothes but “such handsome, splendid specimens of high caste Hindus”. She and her maid Marie were the only women in camp during the siege of Delhi. She was too heavily pregnant to risk the elephant train by which the other women were escorted to safety. Her husband had expected the camp to be overrun in days; instead the siege lasted for 3½ months. Harriet witnessed at least one battle there, the bullets smacking into her stone refuge. The British who held the ridge north-west of the walled city were outnumbered at least four-to-one by the Indian troops. The Residency, Lucknow 1858 photo by the Tytlers The rebels had heavier artillery and kept up a steady fire. All that stopped them overrunning the British encampment was their lack of leadership: none of the Indian officers had experience of commanding anything larger than a platoon.

On June 21, Harriet gave birth to her fourth child, a son, in a bullock cart with no shelter except a temporary thatching of straw. She had no baby clothes or bed linen. The only water available for washing or drinking came from the canal, where camels, horses and elephants drank and servants washed their clothes. Cases of cholera were common; her own baby, christened Stanley Delhi-Force, was born with dysentery but survived, together with the other two children. When the rains came, she found a circular, bell-shaped stone hut used for storing rifles. Here she stayed, under constant shellfire from the city, never knowing if she would live to see another day. Below the tents, in the shattered trees, lay the decaying bodies of mutineers and animals.

By this time, news was circulating about the siege in Lucknow, further south, and the massacres of Europeans in nearby Cawnpore. It was so shocking that Harriet persuaded Robert to obtain a bottle of laudanum in case the worst happened. She made up her mind to give each of the children a good dose and then drain the bottle herself, leaving her husband to avenge their deaths until he was cut down.

The day chosen for the recapture of Delhi was December 14. Robert had bullocks in readiness to send his wife and family off to Umballa, although, as Harriet noted, the loss of

Delhi would have seen all India up in arms and there would have been no place left to hide. As it was, after fierce fighting at the Cashmere Gate, the siege was lifted at the cost of 1,170 casualties – almost one-fifth of all the officers and men. Delhi was still and silent, a city of the dead, nearly all its inhabitants having fled. The king, Bahadur Shah, took refuge in Humayun's Tomb, the huge mausoleum of one of his Mogul ancestors. He was allowed to live. The two princes who ordered the massacre at the Red Fort were shot dead. Five days after the recapture of Delhi, a British force set out from Cawnpore to relieve the besieged garrison at Lucknow. Although battles against rebel forces continued into early 1859, the defeat at Delhi effectively brought the mutiny to an end.

As officer in charge of the royal palace, Captain Tytler took over part of it as his living quarters, and since orders had been given to knock down all the houses just outside the fort walls, Harriet scrounged paints and brushes and painted a cyclorama of the scene. This painting, she wrote, "along with our photographs, went to Buckingham Palace for Her Majesty to see".

This is the only reference Harriet makes anywhere in her memoirs to taking photographs. What she failed to add is that Robert taught himself photography to help her with the detail of the cyclorama. By the next year, when the Tytlers returned to record the visual evidence of the mutiny, at least three other photographers were at work, including Dr John Murray of the Bengal Medical Establishment and Felice Beato, an Italian professional photographer who took a series of views of battle-scarred Delhi, Lucknow and Cawnpore. After getting tuition from him, the Tytlers produced over 500 large paper negatives of the principal sites of the mutiny. They were widely praised for their quality. In the words of John Falconer, curator of India Office collections at the British Library, "To a news-hungry public for whom these events represented an intolerable outrage still hot in the memory, such photographs were steeped with resonance and depth of meaning".

After the mutiny, Robert Tytler was promoted and made superintendent of the Andaman Islands. After two uncomfortable years he retired to Simla, where he took command of the local museum. He died in 1872, a year after Harriet bore him the last of their 10 children, of which eight survived. She somehow found time to set up and run a Christian orphanage in Simla, to design furniture and to exhibit and sell her paintings. After their 1858 Indian mutiny photographs, they seem to have lost interest in making more. Some 80 of their calotypes can be seen in the India Office collections.

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St. Julien	Isabella	105c, 113c	Williams	Elizabeth	67c
Strong	John	78c, 81, 83	Williams	Samuel de la Grange	21c

Wood	Alice Maud	71c, 75c
Wood	Cecilia	75c
Wood	Dorothy Ada	71c, 75c
Wood	Estelle Hofse	71c, 75c
Wood	Esther Earle	75c
Wood	Gertrude Ann	71c, 75c
Wood	Gertrude Earle	75c
Wood	Harriet	39c
Wood	Harriet Lucy	39c, 57c
Wood	Hazel Oman	71c, 75c
Wood	Henry	71c, 75c
Wood	Henry Ashton Earle	75c, 75c
Wood	Manners Charles	57c
Wood	Marie Adele	71c, 75c
Wood	Noel	75c
Wood	Percy Alexander	71c, 75c
Wood	Thomas Henry	71c, 75c
Wright	Kathleen	85c